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BENGALURU
While wholesale traders are lamenting lack of good business on the eve of Gowri-Ganesha festivals this year, the retail traders seem to be making a quick buck.
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MP: No objection to Banu if she respects deity

MYSURU/BENGALURU
Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, MP, has said he has no objection to Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq inaugurating Dasara if she respects the deity of Chamundeshwari. » PAGE 4

SC asks govt. to form guidelines to regulate conduct on social media

Court says influencers commercialise free speech and their comments have the capacity to hurt sentiments; it was hearing a case against comedians, including Samay Raina, for insensitive jokes about persons with disabilities on social media

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday said social media influencers commercialise free speech, and their comments had the capacity to hurt sentiments in a diverse society, which includes persons with disabilities, women, children, senior citizens, and minorities.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi asked the Union government to work on guidelines to regulate conduct on social media, including online shows such as podcasts, in consultation with the National Broadcasters and Digital Association, represented by advocate Nisha Bhambhani, in a bid to balance free speech with the equally important right of varied communities to live in society with dignity.

> When you are commercialising free speech, you should also bear in mind not to hurt the sentiments of certain sections of society
>
> **JUSTICE JOYMALYA BAGCHI**
> Supreme Court judge

> Today, we have an unfortunate incident of disabled persons, tomorrow it can be about women, children and senior citizens. Anybody can start making fun... where is all this going to end?
>
> **JUSTICE SURYA KANT**
> Supreme Court judge

The court was hearing a case against comedians, including Samay Raina, for "abusing freedom of speech and expression" by making insensitive jokes about persons with disabilities. "When you are commercialising free speech, you should also bear in mind not to hurt the sentiments of certain sections of society," Justice Bagchi observed.

Justice Kant said that by making insensitive jokes about persons with disabilities, the constitutional objective of bringing them into the mainstream was "completely smashed".

'Varied communities'

Justice Bagchi acknowledged that humour was an irreplaceable part of life, but levity must not breach sensibilities. "We are a country of varied communities," he said.

Justice Kant said guidelines must be framed in a way that violation would inevitably lead to specific consequences. "Unless effective consequences are framed, people can zig-zag their way out of liability. Consequences must be proportionate to the harm done. They cannot be an empty formality," he said.

He clarified that the court was not for a moment trying to curtail free speech, but was expecting the proposed guidelines to draw a line between free speech and hurtful speech.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Govt. finalises four names for nomination to Legislative Council

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After months of delay, the Congress government is learnt to have finalised four persons to be nominated for vacant seats in the Legislative Council.

Ramesh Babu, a former MLC from Janata Dal (Secular), K. Shivakumar, journalist, Arati Krishna, chairperson of KPCC NRI Cell, and F.H. Jakkappanavar, Dalit activist, are learnt to have been finalised by the Congress.

Earlier, a list by the KPCC is learnt to have been rejected by Central leaders. The seats in the 75-member Upper House had fallen vacant owing to the completion of the term of Congress members U.B. Venkatesh and Prakash Rathod in October 2024 and Janata Dal (S) member K.A. Thippeewamy in February 2025.

One seat had fallen vacant as C.P. Yogeshwar, the then BJP member resigned to contest on a Congress ticket from Channapatna in the Assembly bypolls, which he eventually won.

Mr. Babu is currently the party spokesperson. Ms. Arathi is the daughter of former Minister Begane Ramaiah, who passed away recently. Mr. Jakkappanavar is a trade union leader. Mr. Shivakumar is a journalist from Mysuru.

In the Council, BJP has 33 seats, JD(S) 7, and the Congress 29. The House also has an Independent besides the Chairman. After the above nominations, the strength of the Congress will increase to 33.

Familiar space

Back to school: The first Indian astronaut to go to the International Space Station, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, with his wife, Kamna Shukla, at a felicitation at their alma mater, City Montessori School, in Lucknow on Monday. SANDEEP SAXENA

5 journalists among 20 killed in Israeli strikes

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza's civil defence agency said five journalists were among at least 20 people killed on Monday when Israeli strikes hit a hospital in the south, with Reuters, the Associated Press, and Al Jazeera mourning their slain contributors.

Civil defence spokesperson Mahmud Bassal said "the toll so far is 20 martyrs, including five journalists and one member of the civil defence", after strikes hit Khan Yunis's Nasser Hospital – a large medical complex that has been targeted several times by Israel since the start of the war.

A pressperson holding the camera belonging to Palestinian journalist Hussam al-Masri, who was killed in the strike. AFP

According to the media watchdogs Committee to Protect Journalists and Reporters Without Borders, around 200 journalists have been killed in nearly two years of war between Israel and Hamas.

In a statement, the Israeli military said its troops on Monday "carried out a strike in the area of Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis".

"The Chief of the General Staff instructed to conduct an initial inquiry as soon as possible," it said, adding it "regrets any harm to uninvolved individuals and does not target journalists as such".

Mr. Bassal said a drone targeted a building at the hospital, followed by an air strike as the wounded were being evacuated.

CONTINUED ON » PAGE 8

Dharmasthala case: Questioning of the complainant continues

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

The Special Investigation Team (SIT) probing into the alleged Dharmasthala burials continued its questioning of the 45-year-old complainant for the second straight day on Monday.

He was quizzed on the production of the skeletal remains before the court at the time of recording his voluntary statement under Section 183 of Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita.

At the time, the complainant had said he was producing skeletal remains of a female victim of sexual assault. When FSL reports showed that the skeletal remains were that of a male, the SIT arrested him for perjury on August 23. On production before the court, the magistrate granted his custody to the SIT till September 3.

SIT sources said the team took the complainant for a routine health check-up on Monday (August 25), before resuming questioning. The SIT will conduct searches in different places related to the complainant.

The protection granted to the complainant under the Witness Protection Scheme on July 11 by the committee headed by Dakshina Kannada Principal District and Sessions Judge Basavaraj continues.

Meanwhile, the Belthangady police on Monday continued to question YouTuber M.D. Sameer in connection with case registered against him for producing and sharing a fictional video about the alleged mass burial in Dharmasthala village and creating unrest in society.

He was also questioned, regarding two cases registered against him in connection with the alleged assault on Suvarna News channel reporter in front of a private hospital at Ujire on August 6.

Rapido unveils 'Bike Direct' as Uber, Ola halt bike taxi services

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after bike taxi aggregators resumed plying in Karnataka, Rapido has introduced a new feature called 'Bike Direct' to continue operations, while Uber and Ola have stopped offering the service just two days after the Karnataka High Court's clarification.

A check on the Rapido app by *The Hindu* revealed that the company has rolled out 'Bike Direct', which it claims is a "non-profit initiative by Rapido aimed at supporting our captains whose livelihoods were severely impacted due to recent operational restrictions."

In contrast, Uber and Ola have removed the bike taxi feature from their apps.

When contacted, a Rapido spokesperson said, "While the High Court permitted individual captains to operate independently, no one was able to secure bookings due to the absence of a dedicated infrastructure or platform. In response to their request, Rapido has stepped forward to provide them access to our technology, purely as a livelihood support measure under the name 'Bike Direct'. This initiative enables captains to connect with potential customers and earn an income, helping them sustain their daily lives".

A commuter using a bike taxi in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

"We wish to clarify that 'Bike Direct' is not a commercial service and does not signify Rapido's return to operating bike taxis. It is solely a non-profit, humanitarian effort to empower captains with the tools they need to rebuild their means of earning," the spokesperson added.

Meanwhile, Uber and Ola were not available for comment.

The High Court of Karnataka on Friday orally clarified to State Advocate-General Shashi Kiran Shetty that the court, on August 20, had only asked the A-G to instruct the authorities not to take any precipitative action against individual bike taxi owners or drivers for operating their vehicles.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Vibhu Bakhru and Justice C.M. Joshi gave this clarification when the A-G complained that aggregators, like Uber, Ola and Rapido, have started offering bike taxis on their platforms even though the court had not given any such liberty to them.

Woman found dead with mouth blown up at lodge in Mysuru dist.

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The police arrest the woman's boyfriend after the mysterious death

The death of a 21-year-old woman in a lodge at Bherya town in Mysuru district is shrouded in mystery.

She was found death with her mouth reportedly blown up.

The police have arrested the woman Darshita's boyfriend Siddaraju, 25, and an investigation is underway to ascertain the cause of death that is reported to have taken place on Saturday night.

The police said Darshita, a native of Gerasanahalli in Hunsur taluk, was married to a person from Kerala.

She had checked into the lodge with Siddaraju, who hails from Bettadapura in Periyapatna. The lower jaw of the victim is reported to have been ripped off.

Amid reports of use of an explosive by the accused, Superintendent of Police, Mysuru, N. Vishnuvardhan clarified that no gelatin stick, detonator, or bomb had been used in the incident.

A team of officials from the Forensic Sciences Laboratory reached the spot and collected samples for investigation.

'Charger explosion'

Though the accused claims that an "explosion" took place due to a mobile charger, the police suspect the accused to have used some "powder" that acted as a "triggering agent" for the "blast".

The incident is reported to have taken place on first floor of the building, but nobody in the building had heard any loud sound.

What does it mean to give voice to an otherwise silent game

Chess, a game played silently between two individuals, is facing a makeover with live commentary by veterans as seen during the Quantbox Chennai Grandmasters tournament; Tania Sachdev, Sahaj Grover, Sagar Shah, Kincso Toth and Rakesh Kulkarni have added a new layer of interest by taking the sport to a wider audience

Tania Sachdev, Kincso Toth and Sahaj Grover

C. Shyam Sundar
CHENNAI

Chess has come some way from being an elite sport to a spectator-friendly one. Efforts to make it more appealing to not just the dedicated fan/audience have gained momentum. Commentary in chess tournament may come as a bit of a surprise but appears to be one of the ways to bring the sport closer to the audience.

The Quantbox Chennai Grandmasters tournament in the metropolis saw the commentators enjoy their time under the sun, with an enthusiastic crowd playing along rather well.

Tania Sachdev, an International Master, who has taken to commentary like fish to water, was among the commentators who provided live broadcast at the Chennai Grandmasters tournament venue and her high-octane analysis kept fans who grew in numbers by the day, engaged.

She was hugely popular among youngsters, with many seeking for an autograph and and a photograph. The 38-year-old, who is a Chess Olympiad gold medallist and has many titles in her kitty, has an affinity for commentary too.

Tania plays on and off these days but doesn't seem to miss being at the board. "I love commentating. I don't think I love playing as much as I used to. So it's not a job for me. It's a joy and privilege to be able to do what I do," she said during the tournament.

"And yeah, my dream is that chess will be watched by millions of people across the world. And they can feel the emotions of the game. And I hope I can help in that," she said, emphasising her love for speaking about the sport.

Sharing commentary duties with Tania were Sahaj Grover, a Grandmaster, Sagar Shah, an IM himself, Kincso Toth, a Hungarian player, Rakesh Kulkarni, also an IM.

Sahaj, a World under-10 champion in 2005, said he was enjoying the stint in commentary and loved doing it.

"I am enjoying speaking on chess. It is something I love. Well, in the beginning it was a bit strange, I'm not going to lie, because you know, chess players are very quiet!"

Talking about the shift in roles, he said, "So it was a bit of a change for me to be a commentator because I have to speak a lot, I need to do that with a certain energy.

"Just like I tried to become a good player, I'm trying to be a good commentator as well (laughs)."

He is all for encouraging fans' participation during live commentary at tournaments. In Chennai, "I was happy that there were a lot of segments here, when we were interacting with the audience. I think one day there was just a whole school, one class was here and we were asking them questions. They were very excited, and were shouting the moves. They came on the stage as well." Grover wants to see more of this happening in different tournaments.

He is also of the opinion that chess commentary would be sustainable as long as the Indian players do well in the sport.

High on energy

Grover said he enjoyed the stint at the Chennai Grandmasters event.

Chennai is special, he said. "...there is energy everywhere! But here we have extra energy because we are in Chennai. It is the heart of Indian chess and because Vishy Sir (five-time World champion Viswanathan Anand) is from here, D. Gukesh, Pragg (Praggnanandhaa)... so many of them. It is awesome to come to the city. So many good players from Chennai and that's where the energy comes from. It comes from the fans, it comes from my co-commentators, it comes from the players."

Hungarian Toth was excited to be sharing the commentary booth with the likes of Tania, Sahaj and Sagar. "It is my first big gig," she said with a big smile.

"Loved the audience. Loved that people got together to meet not only the players but the commentators as well," she added.

The professionalism of her fellow commentators seemed to rub off on her. "The bunch (of commentators) are so professional that it makes it really easy to work with them. And you can also learn so much. So, my experience has actually been great here."

The 22-year-old from Budapest said she would love to juggle playing and commentary. "I mean, I enjoy doing both. I love chess. I love being around the sport and I've been doing a lot of chess related work here and there."

The Hungarian is hopeful that she will make a career out of chess commentary.

"I really hope I can. I enjoy it (chess) a lot and I would definitely love to continue," the chess player from the land of the Polgars and Peter Leko, said.

Enjoying the role

Rakesh Kulkarni, on his part, said he was enjoying the role of commentating and taking the game to the people.

Having got into the business of commentary after giving up his playing career, Kulkarni said he was approached by Chess.com to start its India page and have more presence in India.

Thus, he began covering the Indian juniors and the country's top players winning at tournaments. "Slowly, I also started analysing the game.

"It's so much more, you know, pleasurable to commentate and take the game to a wider audience. So, it's always nice to get more people into the game. I really love to spread the game, get in more players. Convert those people if they have a choice between maybe cricket and chess, trying to slowly getting them into chess is always nice," he commented.

Kulkarni was enthused with the experience he had at the Chennai Grandmasters, especially, the interactive part. "Getting the players also to join the team of commentators and asking them questions. It was great. They also feel connected. They want to see what's happening live. Then the players sometimes come on the stage and share their thoughts. So, it's a great setup what we have here."

He said commentary in chess is a great career. "You get to call the action. You know, players can take a break or can have their ups and downs. But the commentator is always there to share the highs and lows of the players with spectators. And the more someone is emotionally involved, the better it is for the chess world."

He says a commentator can sustain oneself because "there's going to be some Indian playing in some part of the world. So, there are going to be lots of opportunities, lots of events. And the best part for us commentators, they (Indian players) don't just play, they also win."

Commentary in chess may be a new trend but it is sure becoming a hit. With the number of Indians performing well in events across the world, the future does appear rosy for commentators.

THE GIST

- Commentary in chess has made an otherwise elite sport into a spectator-friendly one garnering momentum from different sections of people.
- Sahaj Grover a Grandmaster himself appreciated fans participation during live commentary sessions here.
- As much as it is pleasurable to commentate, Rakesh Kulkarni, also loves how his voice about the on-goings of the game emotionally connects audience.

B. VELANKANNI RAJ

Clay shortage, fewer artisans, rising cost of paint push up idol prices

Despite a ban on them, several shops are found to be stocking up plaster of Paris idols, which are the costliest ones in the market. (Below) People are seen buying Gowri-Ganesha idols, ahead of the festival on R.V. Road, on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Idols & their prices

Kind of idols	Price range depending on the idol size (in ₹)
Spray painted clay idols	300-1,400
Hand painted clay idols	500-2,000
Unpainted clay idols	300-750
Plaster of Paris idols	1,000-7,000

Priyanka Vaadulasha
BENGALURU

Clay not being easily available, dwindling number of artisans making idols, rising costs of paints have driven up the prices of Gauri-Ganesha idols this year. While the prices have only seen a small jump in wholesale shops, a significant jump has been recorded in the retail market.

Compared to last year, while the unpainted clay idols saw a minimum jump of ₹100 per idol, the painted ones saw a significant hike of ₹200 to ₹400 per idol based on its design. In comparison, spray-painted idols cost less than the hand-painted Ganesha idols.

While many complained about the rising costs, there were others who said despite it being a pinch in the pocket, they wanted to celebrate the festival grandly. Vamsi Krishna, a buyer, remarked, "Though costs are higher, I prefer to buy the hand-painted colored Ganesha because of its appeal. After all, the festival comes only once a year."

Another buyer Suresh said that he usually buys a half-foot Ganesha idol every year and the price would usually be between ₹100 to ₹150, but this year it costed him ₹250.

Kiran, a retail shop owner selling idols in Hoodi, said that the cost of hand-painted clay idols was increasing due to the lack of people working on it, with almost a surge of ₹200-₹400 rupees per idol depending on the designs, this year. Janaki, who has been selling idols for 30 years now, said that the cost of the paint today was a lot more expensive, driving up the prices. "Relatively, we also earn a better margin selling unpainted idols," she said.

Despite a ban on them, several shops are found to be stocking up Plaster of paris (PoP) idols, which are costliest ones in the market. Even an idol of half a foot height costs over ₹1,000 in the retail market and the price of a two-feet tall idol can go up to ₹7,000. "We stock it because there is demand. Some people who fancy these idols only want them and they are not willing to buy our clay idols," said Ramachandra, a retail seller in Sahakar Nagar.

Retailers make a killing even as wholesalers rue lack of good business this festive season

There has been a vast difference in wholesale and retail prices of fruits, flowers, and vegetables on the eve of Gowri-Ganesha festival this year

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

How much do flowers, fruits, and vegetables cost

Flowers			Fruits		Vegetables	
Item	Price (in ₹/kg)		Item	Retail price (in ₹/kg)	Item	Retail price (in ₹/kg)
	Wholesale	Retail				
Sevantige	400	600	Apple	250-300	Beans	85-100
Jasmine buds	1,000	2,000	Banana (Yelakki)	100-160	Tomatoe	45-50
Kanakambara	2,000	3,500	Orange	160-200	Carrot	55-60
Rose	300	400	Pomegranate	230-300	Potatoe	30-40
Sugandharaja	300	500	Coconut	45-55/piece	Brinjal	55-60

In many instances, the retail prices are almost double than what prevails in the wholesale market. K. MURALI KUMAR

While wholesale traders are lamenting lack of good business and lower prices of fruits, flowers, and vegetables on the eve of Gowri-Ganesha festivals this year, the retail traders seem to be making a quick buck this season. In many instances, the retail prices are almost double than in the wholesale market. This essentially means, while the farmers are not getting good prices, consumers are not spared either.

For instance, G.M. Divakar, president, K.R. Market Flower Merchants' Association, said a kg of Jasmine buds and Kanakambara flowers, the most sought after and pricey flowers during the festival season were being sold at ₹1,000 and ₹2,000 per kg, respectively, relatively cheaper compared to previous years. However, the same is being sold at almost double the price in the city's retail markets.

"This festive season the business has been dull at K.R. Market. Whenever there are two festivals in the same month, people are not in a position to spend much for the second festival. Gowri-Ganesha festivals have come at the fag end of the month as well. We see no enthusiasm in the market," Mr. Divakar said. The same trend was seen in fruits as well. While apple is being sold at below ₹200 per kg levels in the wholesale market, it was nearly ₹300 in the retail markets. The sharpest difference was seen in Yelakki banana, a festival staple. While they were available in the range of ₹60-₹80 in the wholesale market, it was being sold for as high as ₹160 a kg in retail shops. Coconut, another festival staple, is also pinching the pockets. They cost anywhere between ₹45 and ₹55 per piece. Barring onion and potato, the price of most of the veggies were on the higher scale.

K. MURALI KUMAR

GANESHA CHATURTHI 2025

People shopping ahead of Gowri-Ganesha festival 2025 at Malleswaram on Monday. K. MURALI KUMAR

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our client intends to purchase the Commercial Building consisting of 6 Units, constructed on Property **No.1** measuring on the Southern side 43.5 ft, on the Northern side 53 ft 9.5 inches, on the Eastern side 60 ft 8.5 inches, on the Western side 65.1 ft, totally measuring 3070 Sq.ft, bearing Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Katha No.898/319/291/48/1/242/1A/162/A/3 consisting of Ground plus Five Upper Floors with 2500 Sq.ft built up area in each floor, constructed on the land carved out of Sy.No.48/1C situated at **Whitefield, KR Puram Hobli,** BBMP Ward No.84, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore, bounded on -

East by : Road in Survey No.48/1C;
West by : Property of Mr.Y.Adinarayana Reddy;
North by : Borewell Road;
South by : Property of Ms.L.Radhika and Mr.L.Venkata Muni Naidu.

from its owners **Mr.Satish Bogollu son of Mr.B.Prabhakara Reddy and Mrs.Swapna Putta wife of Mr.Bogullu Satish.**

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication, to the undersigned.

K. V. Narendra & Associates,
Advocates and Legal Consultants,
No.557, 2nd Floor, 9th A Main,
Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560038.
Ph: 9591067392.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. HE-12-2025-26

The undersigned on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works.

Sl.	Name of the Work	Approx. Value
1	**Sub Work-I :** Electrical Arrangements for the Proposed construction of Type-II, 12 Units staff quarters at Castle Rock, **Sub Work-II :** Electrical Arrangements for the Proposed construction of Type-II, 6 units staff quarters at Sonalium.	Rs. 36,74,682/-
2	Electrical Arrangements for the Proposed construction of Type-II, 12 units staff quarters at Kulem.	Rs. 25,10,099/-
3	Electrical Arrangements for Provision of IRS type platform shelter for a length of 175 mtrs (left over) at PF No.1 of Hubballi Station.	Rs. 13,03,609/-
4	Electrical Arrangements for Proposed construction of RPF barrack at Koppal (8-beds).	Rs. 8,17,646.67

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11.00 Hours on 18-09-2025
For details log on : www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer / General
PUB/396/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **Hubballi**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are informed that our clients intend to purchase Property bearing **Site No. 229,** presently bearing BBMP E Aasthi Property No.229 (E.P.I.D No: 7957604480) measuring East to West **40 Feet,** North to South **60 Feet** in all measuring **2400 Square Feet,** in the Layout known as **"ROYAL COUNTY"** (formed in Survey Number **13/1** and other adjacent Survey Numbers of Kothanur Village) situated at **1st Phase, 2nd Cross, Kothanur Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk** and bounded on;

East by : Site No.230;
West by : Site No.228;
North by : Road;
South by : Site No.234.

From its Owners **Mr. S.M. Hemanth and Mrs. Bhargavi Hemanth.**

Persons having any right over the said property may lodge their objections / claims with documentary evidence within **7 days** from the date of this publication to the undersigned.

Geetha Halliyal,
TAVISA LEGAL Advocates
42 High Street, No.775, 2nd Floor,
100 feet Road, Indiranagar,
Bangalore-560038, Ph : 9980519476
email : geethahalliyal@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client is intending to purchase the schedule property from Sri.Anand Tellakula Sunder Raj S/o Sri.T.R Sunder Raj, aged about 52 years, and Smt.Hema Malini T.A, W/o Sri.T S Anand, aged about 47 years, both are R/at No.13, 'Shiva Nilayam', 5th main, 4th cross, Chamarajpet, Bengaluru-560018, who have represented to my clients that they are the absolute owners of the schedule property.

Any persons, financial institutions and statutory authorities who claim any right, title or interest of any nature in or any lien, charge or enforceable right in relation to the schedule property and/or has any objections of any nature to the aforesaid transaction should lodge such claim and/or objections in writing to the undersigned together with supporting documents within seven days hereof, failing which it will be presumed that no valid claims or objections subsist and no claim shall thereafter be entertained by my client and my client would proceed to complete the transaction with the present owners thereof.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential vacant site bearing No.2994, BBMP Ward No.166-Karisandra, PID No.56-139-2994, New EPID No.8192377666, situated at 2nd main, Banashankari II stage, Bengaluru-560070, measuring East to West 17.52 meters, North to South 12.19 meters, totally measuring 213.56 square meters and bounded on:

East by : Road
West by : property bearing site No.2987
North by : property bearing site No.2995
South by : property bearing site No.2993.

Manjunath S, Advocate,
Mob: 8105492455

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

NOTIFICATION
Bengaluru, 18 August, 2025

S.O. 3783(E) - In the exercise of the powers conferred by clause (6) of section 20F and clause 7A of section 2 of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989) the Ministry of Railway (South Western Railway, Construction Organization, Bengaluru Cantonment) hereby authorizes the officers mentioned at column (4) in the table below as 'Competent Authority' and the officers mentioned at column (5) in the table below as 'Arbitrator' to perform the functions as such authority under the said act with effect from date of publication of this notification in the official gazette in respect of Special Railway Projects mentioned at column (2) relating to districts mentioned at column (3) in the table below for Land Acquisition required for the public purpose.

Sl. No.	Name of the Project	District	Competent Authority	Arbitrator
1	Construction of Double Line between Toranagallu - Ranjithpura (23 km)	Ballari	Assistant Commissioner, Ballari	Regional Commissioner, Kalburgi

No.W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727
For details log on: https://egazette.gov.in

(Pardeep Puri)
Chief Engineer-III/Construction
PUB/407/AAS/PRB/SWR/2025-26 **South Western Railway, Bengaluru Cantonment**

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BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer (Lakes-RR Nagar)
Room No.308, 3rd Floor, Annex Building-3 ,
N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560 002.

No: EE(Lakes-RRN)/TN-06/2025-26 **Date: 22-08-2025**

INVITATION TO TENDER (ITT)
(Through GOK KPP Portal only)(Single Cover System)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD/ KPWD/ Railways/ MES or any State Government Organizations.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Supply and Installation of lake information Boards at Herohalli Lake, Lingadeeranahalli(Handralli) Lake, Handralli Lake, H Gollahalli Kere, Talghatapura Lake, Chikkabasthi Lake, Mangammanahalli Lake, Dubasipalya Lake, Kengeri Lake and Gandhinagara Hosakere Lake. **Approx. Value of Work:** Rs.4.14 Lakhs. **EMD:** Rs. 10,500/-. **Stipulated Period of Completion:** 1 Month. **Eligibility of Contractor and Category:** Class-III and above.

Calendar of Events: (1) Availability of tender documents in E-Procurement Portal: **25.08.2025 onwards.** (2) Last date of Receipt of Queries: **01.09.2025 upto 10.00 hrs.** (3) Last date of submission of tenders: **01.09.2025 upto 11.00 hrs.** (4) Date of Opening of Financial Bid: **02.09.2025 upto 11.15 hrs.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (Lakes-RR Nagar), BBMP

Skywalks cleaned in the city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) took up an intensive cleaning drive of all the skywalks across the city on Monday. Of the total 81 skywalks in the city, a total of 77 skywalks were cleaned up by Pourakarmikas on Monday.

The cleaning included stairways, walking decks, lifts, posters stuck on the structures, and removal of waste and dust from the surrounding areas of the skywalks.

Civic sense

"The public is urged to maintain cleanliness while using the skywalks. Citizens are requested not to litter, spit, stick posters, or dispose of plastic covers and bottles in these areas. Maintaining the cleanliness of skywalks is a collective responsibility, and public cooperation is essential," said Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWL).

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Chief Commissioner, Annex Building-1, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-560002

No.: BBMP/C.Comm/PSR(G)/1066/2025-26 **Date: 19.08.2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE
FORM-III (See Sub-rule (3) of rule-3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section **14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act, 1961** the following 'Area' mentioned in the schedule below is required by the Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike for **Formation of road from Gear School road to Peripheral Ring Road via Gunjur palya, Varthur** for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan-2015 for the **width of 45.00mtrs.**

The following land / building owners have opted for Development Rights in lieu of monetary compensation under the Right to Fair Compensation and transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013. The Development Rights will be given by the Authority as twice the land area surrendered and two times the building area surrendered and as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered (valuated as per PWD norms) divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed.

The public is hereby informed about the details of the land and land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose and Development Right Certificate (DRCs) are to be issued in lieu of monetary compensation. Any objections and suggestions are to be addressed to the Special Land Acquisition officer, O/o the Deputy Commissioner (Land Acquisition and TDR) Head Office, BBMP within thirty days from the date of publication of this Notification.

List of land / building area surrendered and land owners for which DRC is to be issued.

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru East** Name of the Village: **Gunjuru**

Sl. No.	Sy. No. / Khata No.	Type of land		Nature of Land	Dimension of the land / plot and extent in Sq.m		Boundaries of the land / plot				Building Details			Present activity on land / Building (Specify Specific activity such as shop, office, factory, apartment, individual house etc.,)	Market (guide lines) value of the land per Sq.m	Name and address of the owner of the plot / land for which DRC is to be issued.
		Vacant	Built up	Agriculture Converted undeveloped Approved layout / developed land Building site	Dimension	Extent	East	West	North	South	Extent in Sq.m	Type of Construction and No. of floors	Floor Area Ratio			
1	Sy No.269/3	Vacant Land		Agriculture Land	1162.34		Sy No.269/4	Sy No.269/2	Sy No.269/6	Remaining Portion of Sy No.269/3	None	None	None	Vacant	50,000/-	Smt. G.K. Bhgya alias G.K. Bhagyalakshmi, W/o. A. Papa Reddy, R/at K.No. 389/2/19, Ajay Vet Pharma, Nekkundi Dommasandra, Via Varthur, Nekkundi Dommasandra, Bengaluru-560087

Note: Market guideline value of this property is considered subject to conditions of payment of fee as per Government Order No.: ನಅಇ 137 ಎಂಎನ್‌ಯು 2024 (ಇ), ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.09.2024 and as per the Circular No.: ಆಯುಕ್ತರು/ಖಿ.ಎಸ್.ಆರ್/ಜಿ/1802/2024-25, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21.09.2024.

Objections and suggestions made be submitted at the address specified below:

Name and address of the Divisional / Sub divisional / Branch Office	Deputy Commissioner, Land Acquisition & TDR, 2nd Floor, Room No: 208, Annex Building-3, N.R. Square, BBMP, Bangalore-560002.

Sd/-,
Chief Commissioner, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MUGGULLA Ramakrishna Murty s/o Muggulla Musalayya. r/o:No. 204, Sai Srinivasam Apt, HM Krishna Reddy Rd, Srinivasa Reddy Colony, Marathahalli, Blr– 560037. Have changed my name as Muggulla Ramakrishna Murthy. Vide affidavit on 23/08/2025.

I, LOKESH, s/o: Thimmappa r/o: F319 Bharath Nagar, Near Kabbalamma Temple, Viswaneedam, Blr–560091. Have changed my name as Lokesh Thimmappa. Vide affidavit on 23/08/2025.

I, DAMAYANTHI Bhat, w/o: Gajanan Mohan Shanbhag, r/o: No–6, Gangadeep, Navodaya Nagar, JP Nagar 7th Phase–560078. Have changed my name as Deepa Gajanan Shanbhag. Vide affidavit on 23/08/2025.

I, Swathy Gunasekharan Alias Gunasekharan Swathy Alias G Swathy W/O, Shyam Sankaran D/o Subramanian Gunasekharan R/o T4-19b Snn Clermont Nagavara Opp Nagavara Lake Bengaluru Karnataka 560045 have changed my name to Swathy Shree.

I, SONA Ghewar Chandji, R/at Flat No. 2b, 2nd Floor, Hinal Heritage, 2nd Cross, Yamuna Bai Road, Madhav Nagar, Bangalore-560001 have changed my name to Sona Jain vide Affidavit datd 14.08.2025 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, DHEERAJ Anil Kumar, R/at No.1163, 21st Cross, 14th Main Road, 3rd Sector, HSR Layout, Bangalore-560102 have changed my name to Dheeraj Anil Kumar Reddy vide Affidavit datd 14.08.2025 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, RAKESH Kumar Shantilal Jain, R/at No.2/3, 3rd Floor, Upper Pipe Line Road, Behind R V Appt. Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020 have changed my name to Rakesh Kumar vide Affidavit datd 14.08.2025 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, KAUSALYA Rakesh Kumar, R/at No.2/3, 3rd Floor, Upper Pipe Line Road, Behind R V Appt. Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560020 have changed my name to Kaushalya vide Affidavit datd 14.08.2025 before Notary K.V.Mani, Bengaluru.

I, Kalliath Preeta Nair D/O, Krishnan Shankarankutty Nair R/o 163, Adarsh Vista, Basavanagar Marathahalli Po Bangalore 560 037 have changed my name to Preeta Nair for all purposes

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAYA Mary Assumpta Lawrence, W/o Maria Joseph, R/a No.7 and 8, NCN East Apartment Flat No 201. Dr Kuvempu Road Ramaswamy Palya, Bengaluru, Karnataka have changed my name to Jaya Mary Assumpta vide affidavit dt:25.08.2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

I, MARIA Joseph Arokiaswamy, S/o Arkiaswamy, R/a No.7 and 8, NCN East Apartment Flat No 201. Dr Kuvempu Road Ramaswamy Palya, Bengaluru, Karnataka have changed my name to Maria Joseph vide affidavit dt:25.08.2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, B'luru.

I CHARMAINE Tina Alphonse, R/at Brigade Net, 5th Floor, 1st Cross, Markham Road, Ashok Nagar, Bengaluru-560025 have changed my name to Charmaine Tina Ganesh vide Affidavit dated 21.07.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

I, CHANDRASHEKAR Rajmanikyam, S/o Rajamanikyam.R, R/at No.273, NES Extension, Shettahalli Road, Malavalli, Mandya-571430 have changed my name to Chandrashekar Rajamanikyam vide Affidavit dated 23-08-2025 sworn before Notary Sivakumara. M.N, Bengaluru.

BUSINESS OFFERS

BUSINESS UNSECURED Loans for Biz Expansion New Project NPA & all Other Business Minimum 1 Crore above. Contact 7736821639 / 7736631639.

PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS to bring to your kind notice that, Vinay Suvartik Gaikwad Address: Flat No.JF 273 First Floor In Block – J, Of Ittina Neela, In Sy Nos,5/3 ,46,47,48, Andhapura Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Talluk. our Land Deed is Missing ANK–1–11313–2006–07. If found kindly return to the above Contact: 9916100766

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GENERAL

I AM looking for decent house maid capable of doing all house hold work and also watching my babies. Preferred Nepali. Salary will be based on experience. Contact Ritu 7026809559.

Like other relics, India's fossils are at high risk of being sold abroad

Fossils once bound for labs are now advertised in storefronts and auction houses; ammonites, extinct sea creatures, once crowded ancient oceans; today, their fossilised remains are sold on the streets of Paris; larger, rarer specimens fetch staggering sums from private collectors at auctions

Anupama Chandrasekaran

A panoramic view of the Panandhro lignite mine in Kutch, Gujarat, showing the fossiliferous level (red arrow) where fossils of the 15-metre-long snake *Vasuki indicus* were found. S. BAJPAI AND P. VERMA

In Western India, some of the country's richest fossil beds lie inside open coal mines. It is gruelling work for palaeontologists with long days under a haze of dust, the deafening hammering of tools, and nights in small-town hotels with basic comforts.

In 2024, palaeontologist Sunil Bajpai reported that at one such dig, he and his team uncovered the fossilised vertebrae of *Vasuki indicus*. This ancient giant snake may have stretched as long as a tour bus. But without a national repository or a secure, catalogued fossil locker like those abroad, the stony remains of this 47-million-year-old serpent face an uncertain future.

"I worry about what will happen to these fossils after I retire in two years," said 63-year-old Mr. Bajpai, chair professor of vertebrate palaeontology at IIT-Roorkee. "Will they be preserved or fall victim to theft or vandalism?"

Around the world, fossils once bound for labs are now advertised in storefronts and auction houses. Ammonites, extinct sea creatures with coiled shells, once crowded ancient oceans. Today, their fossilised remains are sold on the streets of Paris. Larger, rarer specimens fetch staggering sums at auctions from private collectors.

In July 2024, Sotheby's auction house in New York sold a near-complete stegosaurus, a plant-eating dinosaur with spikes, for $44.6 million. It was the most expensive fossil ever auctioned. In California, luxury homes trumpet dinosaur skeletons as living-room showpieces.

Thomas Carr is a palaeontologist at the Carthage Institute of Palaeontology in Wisconsin in the U.S. He studies fossils of *Tyrannosaurus rex*, one of the largest meat-eating dinosaurs in history. In a study published this April titled 'Tyrannosaurus rex: An Endangered Species', Mr. Carr reported that 71 scientifically important *T. rex* specimens are in private hands. Just 61 of these finds are held by public institutions.

"Commercial collectors have gathered more *T. rex* material than scientists have since the first specimen was discovered," Mr. Carr said over a phone call. "The rate of collection by commercial interests was the most surprising and the most alarming."

Heritage at risk

Over decades, India's cultural treasures have often vanished into private hands. In 1898, a British landowner unearthed hundreds of gems from a Buddhist shrine in Uttar Pradesh. The relics stayed in his family for generations before part of the collection was slated for auction at Sotheby's in Hong Kong in 2025. The Indian government blocked the sale. Scientists caution that fossils could be the next heritage lost to the auction block.

"The palaeontological record of India, especially the Mesozoic age, is incredibly important to our understanding of the evolution of dinosaurs and other organisms," Mr. Carr said, referring to the 'age of reptiles' when dinosaurs ruled the earth. "We can't afford to lose it."

India's fossil record includes some of the earliest plant life, dinosaurs and even a skull of ancient humans. That wealth of fossils is due to the subcontinent's prolonged isolation after splitting from the southern supercontinent Gondwanaland around 150 million years ago. After India collided with Asia 50 to 60 million years ago, ancestral horses and whales emerged along its coasts.

"As of now there are no laws governing fossils and there are huge concerns about vandalisation and local sales taking place," Mr. Bajpai said. "If we don't move fast, we're going to lose a part of earth's history that you can never get back. Once a fossil is gone, it's gone forever."

Unsung custodians

Fossils can vanish without trace: misplaced in storerooms, crumbling from heat and rain or hidden away in private collections. One large cache of Indian fossils today lies with the Ranga Rao-Obergfell Trust. It is a collection built by the late Indian palaeontologist M.S. Ranga Rao and his late wife, the German palaeontologist Friedlinde Obergfell.

The couple unearthed truckloads of fossils, including bones of a small, hoofed, land-dwelling herbivore called *Indohyus*. Dutch-American palaeontologist Hans Thewissen examined the specimen in 2005 and spotted features that signaled that *Indohyus* was one of the earliest known whale ancestors. The private collection is now kept in a Dehradun home. Some fossils even lie exposed in the garden, according to Mr. Bajpai. The collection, built over decades, remains largely unsorted and unstudied.

A fossil at the Perambalur Ammonites Centre. FILE PHOTO

> Commercial collectors have gathered more *T. rex* material than scientists have since the first specimen was discovered
>
> THOMAS CARR
> **CARTHAGE INSTITUTE OF PALAEONTOLOGY, WISCONSIN**

With no formal safeguards, some enthusiasts have turned custodians of India's deep history. Vishal Verma, a schoolteacher in Madhya Pradesh, spends weekends rescuing dinosaur bones and shells from riverbeds. The limestone and basalt hills in his neighbourhood, formed 146-65 million years ago, cradle fossilised dinosaur nests and eggs. Ammonites coiled like snakes, slabs of fossil wood and shards of reptile teeth fill every corner of Mr. Verma's home.

"We have to recognise the importance of these finds – they tell the story of our past, the story of earth," said Mr. Verma, speaking in Hindi. "There must be strict measures against misuse and vandalism. Fossils should be accessible to people, but they must also be protected."

In 2006, Mr. Verma stumbled upon hundreds of dinosaur eggs. He borrowed money to rent a truck and move some to a government museum in Mandav. But that wasn't enough to protect them. In 2013, some of the eggs were stolen and the rest were locked away from public view.

"One day they were on the shelf and the other day they weren't," said Ashok Sahni, a veteran Indian palaeontologist of the theft. "Well, when money comes into the picture, it's very difficult in a country like ours to safeguard anything because you can put guards and you can put wire and you can do everything. They did that at the Mandav museum and still, they lost some of the dinosaur eggs kept there and nobody knows how."

Fossils for sale

Fossils aren't just prey for vandals or roadside sellers anymore. A simple Google search can lead you to sites openly selling fossilised dinosaur eggs. They've also become trophies for the rich.

The stegosaurus fossil that sold for a record $44.6 million at Sotheby's last year went to hedge fund trader Kenneth Griffin. The fossil frenzy has even drawn Hollywood celebrities like Nicolas Cage and Leonardo DiCaprio, who once had a bidding war over a dinosaur skull. Sotheby's has further stoked the appetite, carving out a new department in 2021 selling fossils alongside space and cinema memorabilia.

A few years ago, a draft plan for a national fossil repository in India raised hopes. But that plan has barely progressed. Experts warn that in its absence, India's prehistoric treasures remain vulnerable to auctions abroad.

"With no law to prohibit their extraction or sale, it's entirely possible that dinosaur eggs from India have found their way into overseas markets," Mr. Bajpai said.

For now, the 27 fossilised vertebrae Mr. Bajpai found of the *Vasuki indicus* rest in a box at IIT-Roorkee. At an estimated 49 feet, the giant python-like snake would have been longer than the *T. rex* that palaeontologist Mr. Carr found to be drifting into private hands. Only time will tell if this fossil will be safeguarded as a national treasure, safe from any auction block.

anupama.c@thehindu.co.in

Prof. Supreet Saini's research group at IIT-Bombay uses microbes to understand what makes evolution unpredictable and deterministic at the same time. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

IIT researchers use microbes to unlock nature's hidden rules

Purnima Sah

In a breakthrough that sheds new light on one of biology's most puzzling questions, researchers at IIT-Bombay have shown that subtle differences in how nutrients are presented can push microbes along entirely different evolutionary paths. The findings were published in two papers in *npj Systems Biology and Applications* and *BMC Ecology and Evolution*.

The experiments, led by Supreet Saini, focused on the microbes *Escherichia coli*, a common gut bacterium, and *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*, a type of yeast widely used in baking. The researchers designed the study to test whether microbes care about what they eat as well as how it is served. They used the chemically related sugars glucose and galactose but packaged them differently. One group of microbes received a simple mix of the two while others were fed lactose or melibiose, complex sugars made of the same components but bonded differently.

"We picked sugars that are chemically related. Our goal was to see if microbes care about how the meal is served," Prof. Saini said.

Over 300 generations, the microbes evolved along strikingly different paths. In *E. coli*, one group grew faster while another produced more biomass. Yeast populations were similarly divergent. Genetic studies revealed that several mutations contributed to these adaptations.

"We didn't expect these subtle differences to create completely distinct adaptive paths," Neetika Ahlawat, a postdoctoral scholar and author of both studies, said. "The findings suggest that the way a cell responds to a nutrient can influence which mutations are beneficial and what paths evolution can take."

The study also suggests a strategy to fight antibiotic resistance by restricting the evolutionary pathways available to pathogens

When researchers transferred these evolved populations of both *E. coli* and yeast into new sugar environments, their growth followed a pattern. This phenomenon, called a pleiotropic response, refers to the side effects of adaptation in one environment influencing behaviour in another.

"It's a nice reminder that evolution is both flexible and constrained," said Pavithra Venkataraman, a former PhD student at IIT-Bombay and an author of the *E. coli study*. "In identical environments, the outcome was unpredictable, demonstrating a possible flexibility in evolution. However, the pleiotropic side effects of that evolution in new environments were surprisingly consistent. How well an evolved population performed elsewhere could be predicted based on how its ancestor had behaved."

The implications stretch far beyond academic interest. By carefully tweaking nutrient combinations, researchers may be able to direct microbial evolution to create strains that grow faster or are more efficient, opening the doors for applications in food and beverages, pharmaceuticals, and biofuels. The study also suggests a strategy to fight antibiotic resistance by restricting the evolutionary pathways available to pathogens.

"We could imagine using resources to limit the evolutionary paths available to pathogens, making it harder for antibiotic resistance to emerge," Prof. Saini said. "It's still early days, but the prospect is exciting."

The IIT-Bombay studies revealed that while the journey may be unpredictable, understanding the hidden rules behind adaptation could allow us to anticipate where evolution may ultimately lead.

purnima.sah@thehindu.co.in

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Physics of staying airborne

Vasudevan Mukunth

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

QUESTION 1

The faster the air flows over the curved upper surface of the wing, the lower the pressure there. This is called X's principle: aeroplanes use it to generate lift and stay airborne. Name X.

QUESTION 2

For an aeroplane, the angle between the wing's chord line and the oncoming airflow is called the angle of _____. It is used to control lift and to keep the plane from stalling. At its critical value, the plane's lift coefficient is at its highest. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

The propulsion systems onboard a conventional aeroplane accelerate air (or exhaust gases from the engines) backward, thus producing thrust in the forward direction. Name the quantity whose conservation allows this mechanism.

QUESTION 4

The movable parts of an aeroplane's wings and tail that let pilots steer and stabilise the aircraft are called its _____ _____. They're like the muscles of the plane and are used to change how air flows over different sections, creating forces that lift, push or drop the vehicle. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 5

The _____ _____ is the thin skin of air that hugs an aeroplane's wings, fuselage, tail, etc. Even though it is typically only a few millimeters to centimeters thick, it has an outsized influence on flight characteristics. Fill in the blanks.

Answers to August 21 quiz:

1. Unit of radiation dose due to eating fruits – **Ans: Banana-equivalent dose**
2. Time unit to track nuclear chain reactions – **Ans: Shakes (of a lamb's tail)**
3. Unit used as a stand-in for large numbers – **Ans: Sagan**
4. Speed unit equal to 0.17 mm per second – **Ans: Furlong per fortnight**
5. Unit of risk of death equal to 1 in a million – **Ans: Micromort**

Visual: **August Beer**

First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Anmol Agrawal | Tamal Biswas | Harilakshmi M.

When the engines of this aeroplane were removed, heavy winds were able to tilt it backwards. This is because the centre of gravity in its body shifted to the rear.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

BU introduces viva exam as part of PhD entrance test

The students' score in entrance exam and postgraduate course will carry a combined weightage of 70% and the remaining 30% will be included in the viva exam, from the current academic year

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Bangalore University has revised the regulations of entrance for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) research and for the first time introduced a viva exam, which will carry a weightage of 30% from the current academic year 2025-26. The students' score in entrance exam and postgraduate course will carry a combined weightage of the remaining 70%. Earlier, entrance exam and PG course marks were being considered on a 50:50 ratio to put up a merit list for selection.

The university has issued the new regulations, following fresh regulations issued by University Grants Commission (UGC) in the year 2024 making viva exams part of PhD entrance process. Chancellor of the University, Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot has approved the Regulations Governing the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy of Bangalore University, 2024. With this, Bangalore University has become the first State university to incorporate the same.

Bangalore University has become the first State university to make viva exams part of PhD entrance process. FILE PHOTO

Candidates must secure at least 50% marks in the entrance test to qualify for the interview. However, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and Persons with Disability candidates have been granted a 5% relaxation in the qualifying marks.

The Entrance Test shall consist of two sections like Research Methodology (50%) and Subject-specific knowledge (50%). The final score for short listing shall be calculated by adding 50% of the marks secured in the postgraduate degree (PG) and 50% of the marks secured in the university entrance test. The university will convert the marks scored in the PG course and the marks secured in the entrance test to 70%, the order said.

The interview shall carry 30 marks and the Vivavoce Board (interview panel), part of the Research Advisory Committee (RAC), will assess the candidate's research aptitude, academic preparedness, quality and feasibility of the research proposal and subject knowledge relevant to the proposed area of research, the order said.

The cumulative score shall determine the candidate's placement on the merit list.

The viva may also be conducted through the online mode with the permission of the Registrar (Evaluation) of the University, in case the external adjudicator is unable to come physically for the viva examination.

A video recording of the online viva examination shall be enclosed along with the proceedings under the seal and signature of all the members of the viva board.

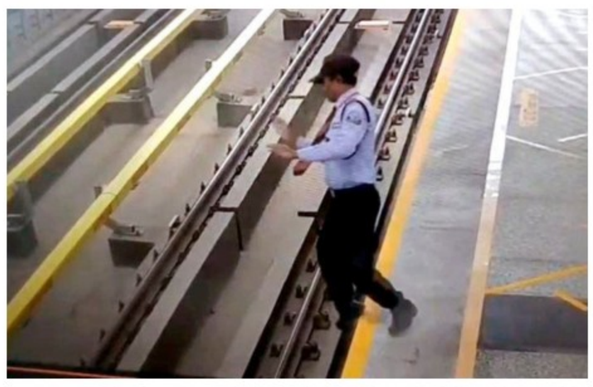
Addressing concerns over possibility of discrimination against students in viva exam, Dr. Jayakara S.M., Vice-Chancellor, Bangalore University, said the changes have been made according to the UGC guidelines. "Strict instructions and guidelines will be issued to ensure that there is no discrimination on the basis of caste, religion, gender, colour as well as region. The selection of candidates will be done transparently," he said.

Yellow Line: Security guard falls on metro track at Ragigudda station, rescued

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Bengaluru Metro witnessed a close call on Monday morning when a security guard accidentally fell onto the metro track at the newly opened Raggigudda station on the Yellow Line. The incident occurred at around 11.10 a.m. on August 25.

According to officials of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL), the guard was on duty at platform number 2 when he slipped and fell on the electrified track. Another security guard on duty at platform number 1 immediately activated the Emergency Trip Switch (ETS), cutting off power to the track. A passenger also rushed forward to help the fallen guard back onto the platform. Speaking to *The Hindu*, a BMRCL official said, "An incoming train was halted, and services were briefly disrupted for about six minutes as a safety measure. The 52-year-old security guard did not suffer any injuries and is safe.


A screen grab of a security guard who accidentally fell on the track at Raggigudda metro station, which is on the Yellow Line, on Monday.

Internal inquiry

Another BMRCL source told *The Hindu* that the guard had been on duty for nearly 16 hours with only a short rest before reporting back to work. Following the incident, the guard was relieved from duty, and an internal inquiry has been initiated to determine how such extended shifts were allowed. The station manager has also been questioned regarding the this issue.

Meanwhile, recently BMRCL installed new safety barricades at R..V. Road interchange station on August 20 to manage the surge in passengers on the recently launched Yellow Line. R.V. Road is now the second metro station in the city, after Majestic, to be equipped with such railings to prevent accidental falls onto the tracks.

BMTC probe gives clean chit to driver involved in fatal accident on J.C. Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The injured boy was rushed to Victoria Hospital where he died. The traffic police had arrested the bus driver and conductor

Officials of the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), who analysed the fatal accident where a 11-year-old boy was crushed to death under a BMTC bus near Jamia Mosque near K.R. Market, have concluded that the driver was not at fault and blamed the scooter rider for the death of the boy.

In an official press release issued on Monday, the officials said that they had verified the CCTV footage and found that the couple along with 11-year-old boy were riding the scooter and tried to overtake the bus from the left.

In the melee, the rider noticed another two wheeler ahead and applied brakes. The scooter rider lost control and all three fell on the road. The boy sitting in the middle rolled under the rear wheels of the moving BMTC and was crushed.

The boy was rushed to Victoria Hospital where he succumbed. The Halasuru Gate Traffic Police had arrested the bus driver Santosh and conductor Bhaskar.

Senior officials of the BMTC who visited the accident spot and conducted a probe found that the driver was not at fault.

Meanwhile, the corporation has said that they are also conducting training sessions for the staff to prevent accidents and improve road discipline among the staff.

Strict action warning

The sessions also include counselling to provide necessary assistance to the staff. The BMTC warned of strict action against the staff involved in violations of traffic rules and road accidents.

BBMP advances door-to-door garbage collection by an hour to clear black spots

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Garbage collectors coming late, in many cases after residents have left for work, has been a significant contributing factor to black spots. To rectify this, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has effectively advanced the garbage collection by an hour henceforth.

The mustering (attendance record) time of autotipper vehicles that collect solid waste was 6 a.m. to 7.30 a.m.

Only after this, the vehicles go on their prescribed routes to collect garbage door-to-door. The time now has been revised to between 5.30 a.m. and 6.30 a.m.

Advantages

"By advancing it by an hour, steps have been taken to make waste collection compatible with the daily routine of the people. This change will not only facilitate the residents to give their waste before leaving for work, but will also prevent the public from dumping waste everywhere and creating black spots," said Karee Gowda, Chief Executive Officer, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Ltd.

Man stabbed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 25-year-old man was stabbed to death over a drunken brawl over a trivial row at S.V. Concrete plant situated in Kumbalagodu Industrial Area.

The deceased has been identified as Amith Rajbagh. The police are probing to ascertain the cause of the murder.

Muslim association petitions police against alleged Pak-based outfit

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Members of a Tumakuru-based Muslim association, Markazi Mazlese Mushwarat, have petitioned the district police demanding action against an alleged Pakistan-based organisation operating in the district, which they claim poses a threat to the law and order and national security.

The petition claims a member of the Pakistan-based Mehdi Foundation International (MFI) has been operating in Tumakuru, to promote the agenda of the organisation, misleading many people.

The petition gives the person's name and other details.

MFI led by Riyaz Ahmed Gohar Shahi operates under several banners like Messiah Foundation International, Kalki Avatar Foundation, Mehdi Foundation International, Interfaith Institute of Divine Love and Anjuman Sarfarosha-e-Islam, the petition said.

In 2024

The Jigani Police, on the outskirts of Bengaluru, arrested Pakistani nationals Rashid Ali Siddiqui, 48, his wife Ayesha Hanif, 38, and her parents Mohammed Hanif, 73, and Rubina, 61, accused of illegally residing in Rajapura, near Jigani, under false Hindu identities in September, 2024. The FIR in the case said that the police recovered materials of Mehdi Foundation International Jashan-e-Younus at their house.

Flagging the Jigani case, the petition said: "Going by the past experience of Deendar Anjuman, another Pakistan-based organisation that was active in the State and was later involved in several bomb blasts against churches in 2000, this organisation is a threat of law and order and national security," demanding a thorough probe into the activities of the oraganisation members in the district.

They have also demanded that the police put an immediate stop to the organisation's meetings, pamphlets being distributed openly.

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, AUG. 26			
RISE	06:08	SET	18:34
RISE	08:27	SET	20:35
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 27			
RISE	06:08	SET	18:34
RISE	09:13	SET	21:11
THURSDAY, AUG. 28			
RISE	06:08	SET	18:33
RISE	10:00	SET	21:48

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	24
Mysuru	30	20
Bengaluru	29	20

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Night also will be pleasant. Short spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

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THE HINDU
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Man loses ₹2.6 lakh trying to pay fine

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 50-year-old engineer lost ₹2.6 lakh by clicking an apk file sent to him on WhatsApp, to pay penalty for traffic violations online. He later approached the Kodigehalli Police seeking help to recover the lost money.

Based on the complaint filed by Murali Mohan, a resident of Telecom Layout, the police have registered an FIR against unknown person for further investigation.

According to the complaint, Mr. Mohan was checking if there were any pending dues against his vehicle on the government website. He claimed that a few minutes later, he got an apk file link on WhatsApp from an unknown number, asking him to click the file to pay the dues. Soon after clicking the link, his phone was hacked and a total of ₹2,65,979 was deducted through unauthorised transactions, he said.

This case has also raised concerns as to how come the victim checking his traffic fine dues on the government website, was followed by an apk file link sent to him.

The police who are trying to track down the accused through the transaction details advised people not to click any apk files they receive.

This is one of the common modus operandi of the cyber fraudsters. Apk files usually plant malware and are used to hack phones, they said, adding especially now that many are trying to pay their dues owing to the 50% rebate window.

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ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of journalists killed in Israeli strikes on Gaza hospital

4 The journalists were among at least 15 people killed on Monday when Israeli strikes hit Nasser Hospital in Khan Yunis, according to Gaza's civil defence agency. According to media watchdogs, around 200 journalists have been killed in nearly two years of war between Israel and Hamas. AFP

Government's new minimum export price on natural honey

1,400 in $ per tonne. The government has cut the Minimum Export Price (MEP) on natural honey from $2,000 per tonne to $1,400 per tonne till the end of this year, according to a notification. Exports below this MEP are not permitted. PTI

Number of people whose free ration will stop: Punjab CM

55 in lakh. Punjab Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann on Monday charged the Union government with "hatching a conspiracy" to stop free ration to people. This is the second time within a week that Mr. Mann has accused the Centre of stopping the ration of people under the National Food Security Act. PTI

Tribal groups which are resisting Ministry interference

150 The groups claimed that interventions by the Tribal Affairs Ministry were "subverting the democratic framework of governance, management and conservation of community forest resources as recognised and established under the Forest Rights Act, 2006". PTI

Value of Dream11's cancelled sponsorship of Indian cricket

43.6 in $ million. Dream11, the biggest online gaming platform in the country, is the lead sponsor of the men's and women's national cricket teams. Last week, Parliament passed a Bill criminalising such games. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu X.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

What does the new online gaming Act outline?

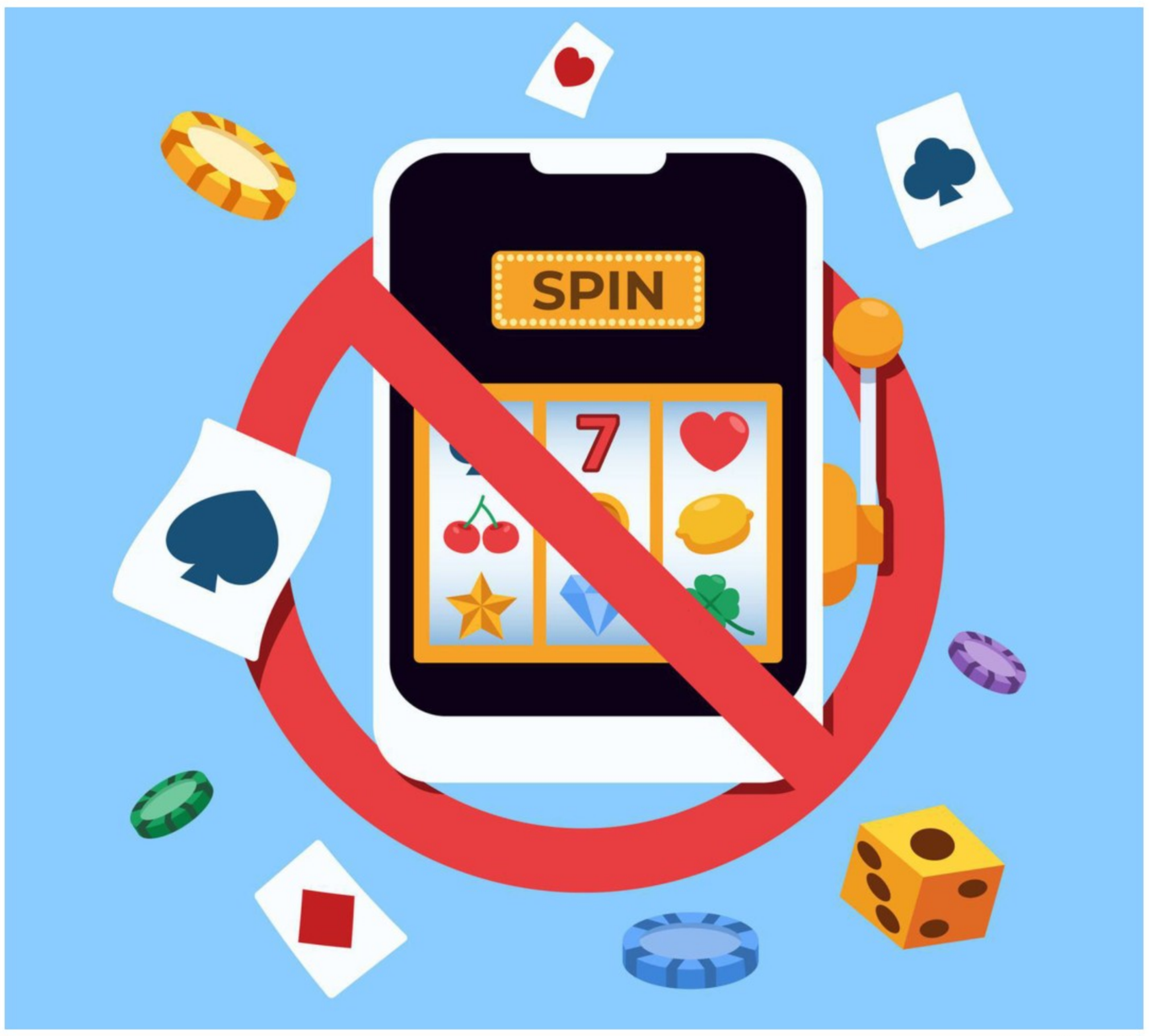
What has the World Health Organization said about Real Money Games? How are e-sports and social gaming segments different from online money games? What are the penalties laid out in the Act with respect to engaging with online money games? Has the Supreme Court intervened?

EXPLAINER

Virag Gupta

The story so far:

On August 20, the Lok Sabha passed the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Bill, 2025 after seven minutes of discussion. The Rajya Sabha passed it the next day and the Bill became law after receiving Presidential Assent on August 22. Government data suggests that Indians are losing ~₹15,000 crore every year due to "Real Money Games" (RMGs). The World Health Organization (WHO) has linked RMGs to compulsive behaviour, psychological distress, financial hardship, and an overall disruption of family life. Reflecting these dangers, 32 cases of suicide attributed to online gaming addiction have been reported in Karnataka in the past 31 months. The RMG industry says this ban may threaten more than two lakh jobs across 400+ companies.



GETTY IMAGES

THE GIST

- The Act has proposed three categories for online games — e-sports, social gaming and Real Money Games (RMGs). While the Act aims to promote e-sports and social gaming segments, it seeks to ban all forms of RMGs and its advertisements.
- Offering online money games or engaging in transaction or authorisation of funds for the same will be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years, a fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both.
- Entries 34 and 62 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution places the regulation and taxation of betting and gambling within the jurisdiction of State governments.

What are the three segments of online games?

The Act has proposed three categories for online games – e-sports, social gaming and RMGs. While the Act aims to promote e-sports and social gaming segments, it seeks to ban all forms of RMGs and its advertisements.

The Act defines an online money game as an online game played regardless of whether it is based on skill, chance or both, and is played after a fee-payment or with an expectation of wining money or other stakes (can include credits, coins, tokens, virtual money, etc. which can be converted to money). Under such a definition, variants of popular games like Poker, Rummy, Fantasy Cricket, and Ludo would be classified as RMGs. Several such platforms are represented by celebrities including Ranbir Kapoor and Aamir Khan (Dream11), M.S. Dhoni (WinZo), Hrithik Roshan (RummyCircle) and Sourav Ganguly (My11Circle).

With respect to e-sports, the Act defines them as games which are recognised under the National Sports Governance Act, 2025 and are registered with the proposed regulatory authority. It may include the payment of a registration or participation fee alongside performance-based prize money. Examples include games like Grand Theft Auto and Call of Duty.

While there is no legal definition of social gaming, it is included in the broader category of online games defined as games played on an electronic or digital device and operated as a software through the Internet. Under Section 4 of this Bill, the government can facilitate the development and availability of online social games for recreational and educational purposes.

What does it say about regulation?

Offering online money games or engaging in transaction or authorisation of funds for the same will be punishable with imprisonment of up to three years, a fine of up to ₹1 crore, or both. Unlawful advertisement will be punishable with imprisonment of up to two years, a fine of up to ₹50 lakh, or both. Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, offences shall be cognisable and non-bailable. The central government stated that the Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-IN) will be tasked with blocking or disabling apps that continue to provide banned money gaming services in India, and if needed, it may rope in Interpol to bring in offshore operators of money gaming platforms. IT Minister Ashwani Vaishnaw clarified in a statement that no penal action for players has been codified.

The Act empowers the Central government to notify and constitute a regulatory authority to recognise, categorise, and register online games. In 2023, the IT Ministry amended the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Amendment Rules, 2021, treating online gaming firms like intermediaries. The amended rules envisaged a system of self-regulated bodies with government oversight. Online gaming firms were required to comply with KYC norms, and uphold measures to safeguard children through measures for parental access control alongside age rating mechanisms based on the nature and type of content.

The new Act makes no provisions to constraint minors from playing online social games or e-sports. It also provides for a budget allocation from the Consolidated Fund of India to promote online social gaming in the country.

Why has the government brought in the Act?

Mr. Vaishnaw said the Act was a response to complaints from users who had lost thousands of crores on online money games, and that it was not a knee-jerk reaction. He said that there is irrefutable proof that the algorithms of online gaming firms do not allow for any user to emerge as a net winner in the long run.

A Parliamentary Panel Report (2023) stated that gaming portals have become agents for funding terror activities. A 2022 Financial Intelligence Report reported that online gaming firms had evaded tax of ₹2,000 crore. Further, the Defence Ministry's think tank found that the Chinese App, FIEWIN, has defrauded Indian users of ₹400 crore, with an ED investigation finding evidence of use of mule accounts and cryptocurrency wallets. In yet another report, the government said that gaming companies were involved in GST tax evasion of ₹30,000 crore.

The current Act says that the unchecked expansion of RMGs is linked to financial fraud, money laundering, tax evasion and many other unlawful activities. It also states that gaming firms rely on opaque algorithms designed to manipulate user engagement, and that games can also be operated by bots or undisclosed agents undermining fairness and transparency. Additionally, the Act says that gaming firms operate from offshore jurisdictions bypassing domestic laws, undermining state level regulations and presenting significant enforcement challenges in terms of extra-territorial jurisdiction and interstate inconsistences. However, while the Act proposes to establish a robust legal framework, the same is not reflected in the contents of the Act. Gaming companies may still bypass restrictions through VPNs, information cash play, or other mechanisms.

What have courts said?

Entries 34 and 62 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution places the regulation and taxation of betting and gambling within the jurisdiction of State governments. And various State governments have taken regulatory actions before. In 2017, Telangana became the first State to ban all forms of online gaming including skill-based games. In 2020, Andhra Pradesh banned online gambling, and in 2022, Tamil Nadu banned games such as Rummy and Poker.

In 2023, the Indian government reclassified GST brackets for online gaming along with casinos and horse racing, putting them in the same bracket as lotteries and betting. In October 2023, it imposed a uniform 28% GST on the entire entry fee/deposit, instead of platform commission. Gaming firms opposed this move, claiming that their platforms were skill based, and termed retrospective taxes as unfair and damaging. The Supreme Court (SC) this year granted a stay on notices issued to online gaming companies. The top court's decisions on whether fantasy sports, poker and rummy should be treated as games of skills or gambling, and on retrospective tax for RMG firms, are awaited. The Central government has requested the SC for one more week to file submissions in the GST dispute on online gaming, with industry players arguing that games of skill cannot be equated with gambling.

The SC had earlier said that games like Rummy and Fantasy Sports involved a substantial degree of skill and cannot be equated with gambling. This Act does not distinguish between games of skills and games of chance, leading critics of the Act to say that it erases the intelligible difference and is violative of Article 19 (1) (g) of the Constitution, giving a guaranteed Right to Trade and Occupation. If the matter is challenged, then the SC can step in to shield the gaming industry with interim relief or issue a notice to the government to explain the rationale behind such a law.

Virag Gupta is an advocate at the Supreme Court.

Minister warns of action against tahsildars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda on Monday threatened to initiate action against tahsildars who fail to dispose of cases that come to their courts within 90 days.

"On an average, cases used to be disposed of in 212 days. This has been reduced to an average of 82 days in the last two years. However, this process has slackened recently, which is not acceptable," the Minister said, while addressing a virtual meeting of tahsildars.

He said that to make things convenient for the public, cases had been asked to be disposed of quickly. "Though some tahsildars were efficient, some are being irresponsible. This is bringing a bad name to the government and people are forced to visit tahsildars' offices every day. Any case being kept for over 90 days will attract disciplinary action," the Minister said.

Regarding the podi, Mr. Gowda expressed displeasure over the podi work not gaining pace despite the launch of a State-wide campaign.

"Though the State government has approved grant of land to poor farmers decades ago, the podi work could not be done, leaving lakhs of farmers in distress. In Dakshina Kannada and Tumakuru, podi work has seen progress, which, however, is not the case with other districts," he observed.

Warning errant tahsildars, who have ignored work on the digitisation of land records, with threat of notices, the Minister said that against a target of scanning 6,000 pages a day, some offices were not even scanning 2,000 pages despite the government providing scanners, computers, and data entry operators.

I am fine with Banu Mushtaq's choice if she respects deity: MP

Yaduveer says even though the State government celebrates the Dasara festival in a secular manner, it has a religious background, culture, and tradition; Vijayendra asks writer to accept Sanatan culture and rituals and then inaugurate event

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU/BENGALURU

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, Mysuru MP, has said he has no objection to Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq inaugurating the Dasara festival if she respects the deity of Chamundeshwari.

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru on Monday, Mr. Yaduveer, who is also the scion of the erstwhile royal family of Mysuru, said he would welcome the government's decision to select Ms. Mushtaq for inaugurating the Dasara festival if she has respect for Goddess Chamundeshwari and would not offend the religious feelings of the people.

He also referred to Ms. Mushtaq's reported statement that she respects the deity and had participated in the festival when she was a child during the time of Jayachamarajendra Wadiyar

Mr. Yaduveer denied that his statement was in contrast to the other BJP leaders' position on the issue and said there were questions about her faith in the deity, but the writer has clarified that she respects the deity.

Even though the State government celebrates Dasara in a secular manner under the Constitution, the festival has a religious background, culture, and tradition, Mr. Yaduveer said.

Mr. Yaduveer said the Congress government had earlier invited people who had no respect for religious rituals and Indian culture, and cited the names of Girish Karnad and K.S. Nisar Ahmed. As the festival is inaugurated by offering floral tributes to the deity of Chamundeshwari, the State government should bear in mind that the invited guests respect the religious feelings of the people, he said.

To a question, Mr. Yaduveer pointed out that the State government should have also invited Deepa Bhasthi, the translator of Ms. Musthaq's Booker Prize winning work *Heart Lamp,* to do the honours.

Ms. Bhasthi hails from Kodagu district, he said, and added that achievers from Kodagu should also get representation in the Dasara festival.

Meanwhile, addressing a press conference in Bengaluru, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra asked Ms. Mushtaq to accept Sanatan culture and rituals, and then inaugurate the festival.

"Sanatan Dharma includes idol worship and offering puja to the deity. Do you agree with that? If you agree, then make your stand public and then inaugurate the festivities," he said.

'Withdraw decision'

However, Union Minister Shobha Karandlaje urged the government to withdraw its decision to invite Ms. Mushtaq, who does not believe in idol worship, to inaugurate the festivities.

She termed the government's action as anti-Hindu, while arguing that the Dasara inaugural ceremony would involve offering puja.

BJP to take out Dharmasthala *chalo* rally on September 1

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Alleging that there was a smear campaign against Dharmasthala, the BJP has not only demanded a National Investigation Agency (NIA) probe into the allegations of mass burials, but also announced that it would hold a Dharmasthala *chalo* rally on September 1 to press for such a probe.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Monday, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra maintained that an NIA probe would instil confidence among the public and devotees who were concerned over the alleged smear campaign. He urged the Congress government and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to take such a decision immediately.

Alleging that sentiments of Hindus were hurt over the developments related to Dharmasthala, he called upon devotees across the State to participate in the rally to protest against the "smear campaign" and also to demand the NIA probe. He said devotees from different areas of the State would visit local temples in their towns on September 1, before heading for Dharmasthala, where a rally would be organised in the afternoon.

Alleging that the manner in which the government handled the Dharmasthala issue had tarnished its reputation, he maintained that a thorough investigation by the NIA was essential to uncover the organisations and forces behind the controversy. He warned that such forces could conspire against other temples in a similar manner.

Accusing the government as well as Mr. Siddaramaiah of taking hasty decisions with respect to Dharmasthala, he argued that the State intelligence wing or the police should have conducted a preliminary investigation before any decisions were made.

He alleged that a lack of consistency in the stand of the government and the Chief Minister had triggered suspicion that some organisations may have been influencing the government's decisions.

File chargesheet within stipulated time, says CM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Urging police officials to file chargesheets in cases registered under Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, within the stipulated 60 days, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said that a chargesheet has been filed in courts only in 63% of the total cases registered.

"A total of 6,635 cases have been filed since 2023, and a chargesheet has been filed in 4,912 so far. In only 4,149 cases has the chargesheet been filed within 60 days," he noted on Monday, during a meeting of the State-level review and monitoring committee. "In the last six months, in only 84% of the cases, a chargesheet has been filed in courts within 60 days," he said.

The Chief Minister said that conviction has taken place only in 36 cases while 679 are in the investigation stage. Seeking year-wise data in older cases, he asked: "What is the fate of older cases?"

He directed the police to ensure that stay orders from courts in 56 cases are removed. "Eleven fast-track courts have been established to try atrocities cases in the State. The police have to work towards hastening the cases to ensure justice to the victims. Currently, the conviction rate is about 10%. Strict action has to be initiated against police officials who try to connive with the accused."

ATROCITY CASES

He promised to enhance the medical compensation to victims who suffer disability in atrocities cases.

In cases of fake caste certificates, he asked officials the reason for delay in implementing the decision of the courts despite favourable orders.

"In 170 cases, fake certificates have been proved in courts. Action should be taken in these cases. Efforts have to be initiated in such cases to start recovery process if it is found that government benefits have been availed of using fake certificates. There is a need to coordinate between departments to implement this. A comprehensive report has to be provided on this. Efforts should be made to fill up vacancies, if any, in 33 DCRE police stations across the State."

Observing that the trend of counter-complaints being filed is on the rise, he said that officials have to visit the spot to verify the truth before filing an FIR.

The State government will unveil a rehabilitation package for Devadasis.

He said that survey work is under way and the rehabilitation package will be announced after the findings of the survey are known.

"We will also consider providing special financial aid."

Ashok inspects TB dam

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Monday inspected the Tungabhadra dam.

Speaking to presspersons, he said that if the government had repaired the crest gates earlier, a lot of water could have been saved and crop losses could have been avoided.

He was referring to an announcement by the government that water for the second crop will not be released this year for farmers as water storage needs to be reduced to facilitate replacement of the gates.

Khader speaks at conference in Delhi Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka Speaker U.T. Khader on Monday addressed a conference being held in the Delhi Assembly on the theme 'India - Mother of Democracy'.

According to an official release, Mr. Khader said that democracy is not just our administrative system, but also our belief, strength and identity. "Democracy is not polarisation of power, but a great process of empowerment of people of everyn community and every class in society," he said, according to an official release.

Referring to the diversity of the country in terms of language, culture, and practices, Mr. Khader said diversity was not a weakness, but the strength of existence.

Directorate of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Punjab
Kheti Bhawan, Plot No. 204 (Near Dara Studio), Sector-56, S.A.S. Nagar (Mohali)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Punjab invites qualified and experienced technology solution providers across India for the development and implementation of an AI-based Voice Assistant Mobile Application (Android and iOS). The application aims to assist farmers by offering multilingual voice-based access (Punjabi/Hindi) to government schemes, weather forecasts, crop advisories, and other agricultural services.

Interested vendors are requested to send their presentation via email at: directoragriculturepunjab@gmail.com and jdaextensionpunjab@gmail.com from 26.08.2025 to 12.09.2025 till 05.00 pm. Vendors are also advised to review the detailed requirements available on the official website of the Department (www.agri.punjab.gov.in).

Sd/-
Director,
Agriculture and Farmers Welfare,
Punjab

1772/12/2025-26/2548

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby informed that my clients i.e., Sri. MOHAMMED AYUB and SHABANA AYUB have intend to purchase property with its owners Mr. I. MOHAMMED WASIM and Mr.MOHAMMED AZAM. Situated at No.75, Patel Gudappa, 3rd Cross, PID No.92-112-75, J.C.Nagar, Banglore-560006. (previously bearing Khatha No.75, K.G.Byadarahalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk), within the administrative jurisdiction of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike Ward No.62 (Ramaswamy Palya) old ward No.92 (Jayamahal) Bangalore City. Measuring on the East 39 Feet, on the West 37 ½ Feet, on the North 32 feet on the South 41 Feet, in all measurement 1387 square feet. Bounded on East by : Property No.72 and Sri K R Lakshman, West by : 3rd Cross, Gundappa Block, North by : Cross Road, South by : Property No.73 and Satish Kumar. If any person or persons or authority having any manner of right, title or interest in respect of the property stated above may file their written objections along with evidentiary proof before the undersigned within 7 days from the publication of this Public Notice failing which my clients shall proceed to purchase the above property believing that there is no form of encumbrance or objection of any sorts from anyone to the said Transaction and complete the Sale Transaction free from all encumbrances.

Syed Khaleel Pasha, GM Jyothi, Manjunatha M, Anita, Syed Bilaal Quadri, Syed Adil Quadri, Advocates, No.29, Hospital Road, Opp Sultan Shah Masjid, Bangalore-560001.

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly owned government of Karnataka undertaking)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436 ,Email:eeitgescom@gmail.com

No: GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE(COMM/IT)/EEE(IT)/AEE(IT)/AE(IT)-08/2025-26/ 39090-104
Date: 25.08.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KPPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Gulbarga Electricity Supply CompanyLtd., Gulbarga invites tender on total turn key basis from eligible bidders through KPPP portal for **Implementation of "Application Access Control System using Zero Trust Framework in GESCOM"**.
Tender Enquiry No.1) GESCOM/CEE/SEE/EE/2025-26/IT34, Name of Company-GESCOM

The bid documents will be available in https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **28.08.2025** The prospective bidders can obtain further details from the office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy.,
DIPR/Kalaburagi/432/KSMC&A/2025-26 Operations, Corporate Office GESCOM,Kalaburgi

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT
ENGINEERING WING
Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road,Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**
No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-3/AE-1/TND/2025-26/1790 Date:25.08.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION-CALL-3

The Chief Engineer, HFWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites Tender for Appointment of Consultants for Preparation of **DPR, Architectural, Structural and other services Drawings** in Two Tender document system in Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform for the following works under the Head of Account: KMERC Funds

Sl. No.	Description of works	Approximate Service Estimated cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (Rs. in Lakhs)
1	Consultancy Services for Preparation of **DPR, Architectural, Structural and other services Drawings** for the work of Strengthening of selected Government Hospitals in **Chitradurga Taluk** through various rejuvenation facilities.	3.30	0.083
2	Consultancy Services for Preparation of **DPR, Architectural, Structural and other services Drawings** for the works of Strengthening of selected Government Hospitals in **Holalkere Taluk** through various rejuvenation facilities.	4.30	0.11
3	Consultancy Services for Preparation of **DPR, Architectural, Structural and other services Drawings** for the works of Strengthening of selected Government Hospitals in **Hosadurga Taluk** through various rejuvenation facilities.	3.40	0.085
4	Consultancy Services for Preparation of **DPR, Architectural, Structural and other services Drawings** for the works of Strengthening of selected Government Hospitals in **Molakalmuru Taluk** through various rejuvenation facilities.	2.00	0.05

Calendar of Events: (1) Last date for receipt of tenders: **09.09.2025 up to 16.00 hrs. (2)** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **10.09.2025 at 16.01 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested, eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

ಜಿಲ್ಲಾ ಪಂಚಾಯತ್, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ
ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ.

ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 06/ 2025-26, ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.07.2025

ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ.ಟಿ-I, II ರ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಐಟಂವಾರು ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವಿಧಾನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿರುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸೂಕ್ತ ದರ್ಜೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಎನ್‌ರೋಲ್ ಮಾಡಿಸಿಕೊಂಡಿರುವ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಇಲಾಖಾ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** ಮೂಲಕ ಅರ್ಜಿಯನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. (1) ಇ-ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಹಾಗೂ ಷೆಡ್ಯೂಲ್-ಬಿಗಳನ್ನು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 30.08.2025ರ 16:30 ರವರೆಗೆ. (2) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01.09.2025 ರಂದು 4:35 ನಂತರ.(3) ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕ(ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ)-ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು,
ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

ಪಾಸಾಸಂ/ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ/ಆರ್.ಓ.ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:173/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/2025-26

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

Sri. R. KARTHIKEYAN
passed away peacefully on 24th August, his 86th birthday. He is survived by his wife (Hemalatha), Sons, Daughters-in-law & Grandchildren.
Deeply missed by
Family and Friends
Ph : 9840990131

IN MEMORY OF YOUR LOVED ONES
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Hubballi: 0836 - 2338600
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DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FOND REMEMBRANCE 5th ANNIVERSARY

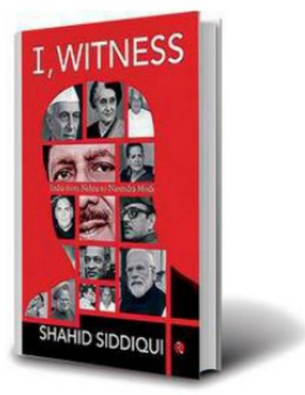
Dr.Justice
AR. LAKSHMANAN
22.03.1942 - 26.08.2020

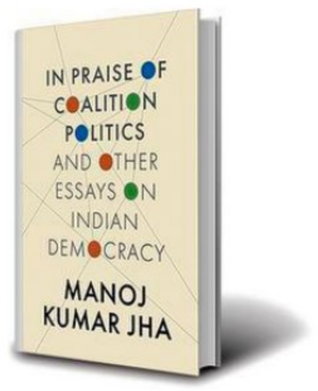
Mrs.**L.MEENAKSHI ACHI**
04.06.1944 - 25.08.2020

"Lived Together And Left Together To Their Heavenly Abode"

L. Arunachalam @ Chandru - AR. Sophy, AR.L. Sundaresan - S. Abirami, AL . Umayal - AL . Kumar, S. Swarnavalli - M. Saminathan R. Arunachalam - A. Soundaram, Grand Children, Great Grand Children & A. RM.A. L. A. Family, DEVAKOTTAI.

BIBLIOGRAPHY





Fierce critics: Manoj Kumar Jha, member of Rajya Sabha from the Rashtriya Janata Dal speaks at a mass movement demanding rights for workers in New Delhi on December 4, 2023. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

‘Let civil society breathe’: two voices on contemporary challenges

Parliamentarian and academic Manoj Kumar Jha pushes for constructive and inclusive politics in his book of essays; another veteran, former MP Shahid Siddiqui, takes a walk down memory lane to give a ringside view of Indian politics from Rajiv Gandhi to Modi

Ziya Us Salam

Reading Manoj Kumar Jha is like having a communication with your soul. He doesn’t befuddle you with cute phrases or awe you with smart wordplay. Page by page, sentence by sentence, he exposes the rough edges of our society, often wilfully indifferent to innate chasm and deep fissures.

He brings into stark focus the politics of our times when almost every Indian stands up for Kashmir, few do it for Kashmiris. As Jha writes in his engagingly pieced together book, *In Praise of Coalition Politics and Other Essays on Indian Democracy* (Speaking Tiger Books), “If we believe Kashmir is ours, let us also believe that Kashmiris are not ‘others’.... Reopen the space for political dialogue. End the culture of suspicion and let civil society breathe again.”

Much respected for his frank and fearless interventions in Parliament, Jha, besides being a Rashtriya Janata Dal representative in the Rajya Sabha, is also an academic at Delhi University. He brings the same qualities to his writing, some of which were initially published as condensed columns in the media. He takes a clear stand, be it on Kashmir or caste, Waqf or universities.

Politics of exclusion

On the waqf property issue, he uses a subheading titled, ‘A struggle between zulm (cruelty) and insaaf (justice)’, leaving no scope for speculation. “(Waqf) is not merely about property; it is about charity, legacy and community...It is one of the last standing architectures of self-determined care. To tighten state control over (waqf properties), without accountability or consent, is to sever a lifeline....From being denied housing and told what they can eat to being watched on college campuses, Muslim citizens find themselves and their ways of being more excluded than ever in India....The amended waqf law is an act of economic ruination and humiliation dressed in the language of procedure.”

With a little whisper here and rising above the din there, he builds his case as a formidable voice on contemporary challenges facing the country. As he writes in the introduction, “From a secular and civic version of nationalism, we have slipped into a nationalism that is violent, exclusionary and premises upon revenge. Religious majoritarianism combined with the use of brute state power against its citizens has endangered all the gains of democratic development of the last seven decades.”

Among the vulnerable are those who speak up against such a tendency, those who distinguish between the nation and the government. With the boundaries between the two often blurring, Jha reminds readers, “We must have a football field of distance between ‘loving your government’ and ‘loving your nation’.”

Front row seat

If Jha, a two-time MP, is a relatively new voice, former Rajya Sabha MP Shahid Siddiqui is a veteran, hobnobbing with parliamentarians from the late 1970s. Often, he occupied a front row seat to the theatre of Indian politics.

Now, as he completes 75 years, travelling from Ghalib’s Ballimaran to Edwin Lutyens’ New Delhi, he has allowed himself the luxury of a walk down memory lane with *I, Witness* (Rupa). Siddiqui clearly relishes his interaction with various Prime Ministers through the years. He happily shares his photographs with politicians of every hue. With some, like Rajiv Gandhi, he enjoyed rare trust and camaraderie, as evidenced in Siddiqui’s frank disclosure of Gandhi’s fondness for kebabs and phirni. Siddiqui paints a picture of Rajiv Gandhi as a man who tried to build bridges with the Muslim community following L.K. Advani’s violence-ridden Rath Yatra.

Siddiqui takes off his velvet gloves when talking of Narasimha Rao and Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He holds the former “responsible for the demolition” of Babri Masjid; and writes in detail how Rao went incommunicado when the mosque was demolished in Ayodhya on December 6, 1992. “Ram Mandir was to be his legacy. However, things didn’t work out the way he planned,” writes Siddiqui.

On Vajpayee, he doesn’t leave much unsaid, noting, “Without him, the Bharatiya Janata Party wouldn’t have been what it is today....There would not have been an Advani or a Narendra Modi without the pragmatic and acceptable Vajpayee.”

Sweet interchanges

Between them, Jha and Siddiqui paint a picture of their respective times. At times Jha’s strokes are sharp and trenchant; he never sets out to lull the readers with a false rainbow. Of course, he backs it up with poetry, as Gopalkrishna Gandhi reminds us in the foreword: “In these writings, there is ‘Paash’. One also finds Firaq...One gets to meet several English writers.” At others, Siddiqui, a seasoned editor himself, tells us of another age when Prime Ministers gave time to journalists, MPs mingled freely and frequently, and there was often more than a sweet interchange of mutual praise. Siddiqui’s book is at times nostalgic, more so when he talks of Habib Tanvir and Hasrat Mohani in his haveli in Old Delhi. Otherwise, he is the proverbial fly on the wall of politicians of a bygone era, one who has witnessed the vicissitudes of times.

Jha’s book, throbbing with immediacy, is a wake-up call, the cry of a sailor of a sinking ship.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

This Ganesh Chaturthi let us trace the deity’s journey through history, politics, and art

Prathmesh Kher

QUESTION 1
How did Ganesha feature in temple art under the Rashtrakutas and Chalukyas?

QUESTION 2
What is the earliest inscriptional evidence of Ganesha outside India?

QUESTION 3
Why did the Portuguese ban Ganesh Chaturthi in Goa, and how did devotees respond?

QUESTION 4
How did Bal Gangadhar Tilak transform Ganesh Chaturthi into a nationalist festival in 1893?

QUESTION 5
What environmental concern has emerged around the immersion of Ganesh idols?

Visual question:
Where will you find this carving?

Questions and Answers to the previous day’s daily quiz: 1. Name the revolutionary group whose actions against Brazil ended in the foundation of modern Uruguay. **Ans: ‘Treinta y Tres Orientales’ (33 Orientals)**
2. Uruguay share its border with Brazil and this nation. **Ans: Argentina**
3. The significance of ‘Orientales, la Patria o la Tumba’. **Ans: With an official duration of almost six minutes, it is recognised as the longest national anthem in the world**
4. Uruguay became the first country in the world to fully legalise this industry. **Ans: Consumption of cannabis**
5. Define Maracanazo. **Ans: The stunning upset of host Brazil in the 1950 World Cup**
6. The meaning of Uruguay. **Ans: ‘River of painted birds’**
7. Christmas Day is officially called this in Uruguay. **Ans: Día de la Familia (Family Day)**
8. The traditional plant-extracted drink often consumed from a hollow gourd. **Ans: Yerba Mate**
Visual: Name this legendary footballer. **Ans: Diego Forlan**
Early Birds: Tito Shiladitya| Tamal Biswas| K.N. Viswanathan| Piyali Tuli| Mahendra Singh Charan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

“Hi, who’s the letter from?”
“It’s from Sekhar.”
“How’s his new business doing?”
“He says it’s gone belly-up.”
“Belly-up? Is that good or bad?”
“It’s terrible. When you say somebody’s business went belly-up, it means that it went bankrupt. For example, many chit fund companies go belly up within a couple of years.”
“I know of one chit fund company that went belly-up within three months.”
“My cousin started a film distribution company. For a couple of years he did great business. But last year, it went belly-up.”
“Running a business is not an easy thing to do, I guess. But tell me, what is the connection between bankruptcy and a belly going up. Belly means stomach, doesn’t it?”
“Yes, the word belly means stomach. Tell me, what happens to a fish when it dies.”
“It floats upside down.... so, its belly is up.”
“Exactly! So a business that goes bankrupt is....”
“...dead. The business is like a dead fish. It goes belly-up!”
“Right again. Sekhar’s business went belly-up.”
“Why? Was he a lousy businessman?”
“I wouldn’t like to comment on that.”
“Why don’t you want to comment on...Hey that reminds me. Is there a word commentate?”
“Yes, there is. The ‘o’ in the first syllable is like the ‘o’ in words like pot, cot and got. The ‘a’ in the second syllable ‘men’ is like the ‘a’ in China. And the final syllable tate rhymes with the words date, gate and hate.”
“And the stress is on the first syllable, I suppose.”
“That’s right. It’s pronounced commentate. Do you know what it means?”
“I can probably guess the meaning. Does it mean giving your opinion about something?”
“No, it doesn’t. When you give your opinion about someone or something, you are commenting, not commentating.”
“Then what does commentating mean?”
“Commentate means to describe an event on TV or radio. It’s like giving a running commentary.”
“A running commentary for a cricket match?”
“It could be a running commentary for any event. For example, last month, several people from Doordarshan commentated on Mother Theresa’s funeral.”
“Several people commentated on Princess Di’s funeral as well.”
“That’s right. What would you like to commentate on?”
“I would like to commentate on a Test match.”
Published in The Hindu on October 14, 1997.

Word of the day

Apathy:
an absence of emotion or enthusiasm; the trait of lacking enthusiasm for or interest in things generally

Synonyms: indifference, numbness, spiritlessness

Usage: *People need to be more aware of the widespread apathy in our generation.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/apathypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈæ.pə.θi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Text & Context’

The second batch of Dasara elephants being welcomed on their arrival on the Mysuru palace premises on Monday. M.A. SRIRAM

Second batch of Dasara elephants arrives in Mysuru

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The second batch of Dasara elephants arrived here on Monday. The five pachyderms, drawn from various camps, will join the Dasara jumbo squad, led by Abhimanyu who will carry the golden howdah. The new arrivals are Gopi, Sugreeva, Srikanta, Roopa and Hemavathi.

While Gopi, Sugreeva and Hemavathi are from the Dubare elephant camp, Srikanta is from the Matthigodu camp and Roopa from the Bheemanakatte camp. Hemavathi and Roopa are participating in the Dasara festivities for the first time. The elephants were given a traditional welcome at the Jayamarthanda Gate of the Mysuru palace.

The first batch of elephants, led by Abhimanyu, arrived earlier this month. All nine jumbos of this batch are currently being trained for the grand procession, primarily familiarising them with the 5-km-long procession route. The jumbos are taken along the route twice daily so that they get used to the traffic and the noise. The elephants are also on a special diet to keep them in good health. The elephants, along with their mahouts and family members, are camping on the palace premises.

Taking steps to save Nimisha Priya's life, Centre tells SC

The government is fully alive to the sensitivity of the matter, A-G Venkataramani tells top court as petition voices concerns over media reports on the Kerala nurse's case and ongoing negotiations

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani on Monday informed the Supreme Court that the Union government would ensure in its press briefings that no speculative media reports were made till the case of Nimisha Priya reached its final resolution.

She is a nurse from Kerala, who was sentenced to death in Yemen by a trial court in 2020 for the murder of a local man, who was her business partner.

Appearing before a Bench of Justices Vikram Nath and Sandeep Mehta, the top law officer said the government was working to save the woman's life.

> The Centre periodically briefs the press. The government is fully alive to the sensitivity of the matter and in its press briefing will ensure that no further such media reports are made till the case gets its final resolution
>
> **R. VENKATARAMANI**
> Attorney-General

He advised quiet, and not to "muddy the water".

"The Government of India periodically briefs the press, particularly on this case. Despite that, some media have reported this or the other... The government is fully alive to the sensitivity of the matter and in its press briefing will ensure that no further such media reports are made till the case gets its final resolution," Mr. Venkataramani submitted.

The court was hearing a petition filed by evangelist K.A. Paul complaining about media reports concerning Nimisha Priya's case and ongoing negotiations.

The petition was dismissed as withdrawn.

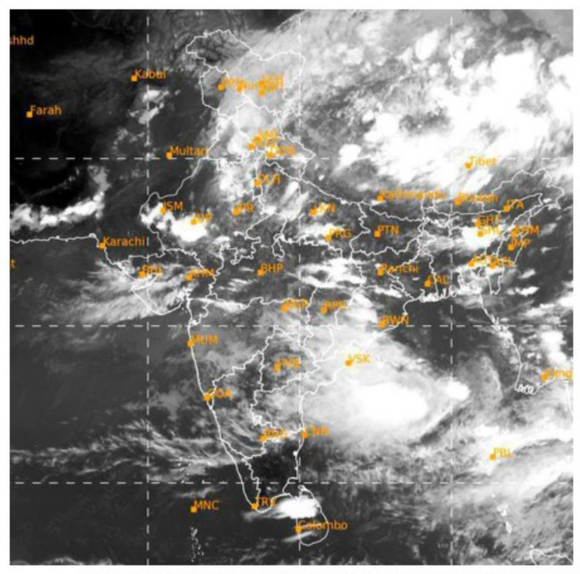
"I do not want the petitioner or somebody else saying 'I am the saviour'... Something is happening, and as long as we keep quiet..." Mr. Venkataramani indicated.

Working relentlessly

Senior advocate Ragenth Basant, appearing for a group of citizens working for the release of the nurse, said they were willing to assist the government in any way possible. In an earlier hearing, Mr. Venkataramani had said the Centre was working relentlessly to save her life.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Konkan & Goa, Karnataka and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	33.8	25.2	Kozhikode	—	33.3	24.5
Ahmedabad	53	31.2	24.5	Kurnool	—	33.2	23.6
Aizawl	9.1	32.5	20.8	Lucknow	7.9	29.3	26.0
Allahabad	78.4	34.2	24.8	Madurai	—	38.0	24.1
Bengaluru	—	28.2	19.8	Mangaluru	—	29.6	23.2
Bhopal	2	28.2	23.0	Mumbai	19	27.5	23.6
Bhubaneswar	17.5	29.9	25.1	Mysuru	—	29.4	18.0
Chandigarh	46	30.1	23.7	New Delhi	13	28.6	23.9
Chennai	—	35.0	27.4	Patna	0.2	32.1	26.2
Coimbatore	—	34.0	23.0	Port Blair	28	29.5	22.7
Dehradun	49	32.2	23.0	Puducherry	—	37.1	25.4
Gangtok	16	21.2	18.4	Pune	2.2	29.0	23.1
Goa	0.8	31.5	25.4	Raipur	—	29.2	24.3
Guwahati	15	33.0	25.4	Ranchi	0.2	29.0	21.4
Hubballi	—	27.0	22.0	Shillong	—	24.2	18.0
Hyderabad	—	30.6	21.6	Shimla	35	22.5	18.5
Imphal	—	30.8	22.2	Srinagar	1	26.8	16.5
Jaipur	5	31.8	25.0	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.8	23.7
Kochi	—	30.4	25.0	Tiruchi	—	37.3	25.6
Kohima	8	22.2	18.7	Vijayawada	—	35.5	26.8
Kolkata	5	32.8	25.7	Visakhapatnam	0.2	30.9	26.9

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.25	.26	27	33	32	
Bengaluru	.10	.15	35	30	109	
Chennai	7	.15	50	46	60	
Delhi	8	.12	42	103	83	
Hyderabad	6	.17	49	98	68	
Kolkata	4	.53	17	49	48	
Lucknow	.59	.12	48	34	32	
Mumbai	.28	.20	29	59	61	
Pune	—	.24	79	25	39	
Visakhapatnam	.15	.44	25	58	88	

Air Quality Code: Poor, Moderate, Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 145 indicating a moderate level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 9

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

KPCC suspends Rahul Mamkootathil from primary membership of Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) on Monday suspended Congress legislator Rahul Mamkootathil from the party's primary membership, following accusations of inappropriate sexual behaviour towards women.

KPCC president Sunny Joseph, MLA, said in a press conference in Kannur that the party was yet to take a call on whether it would seek Mr. Mamkootathil's resignation as the Palakkad MLA.

Rahul Mamkootathil

"In Kerala, there is no precedent of a legislator relinquishing his office, even if they are indicted in criminal cases, including sexual offences. I am not taking names, but several ruling front leaders, including a Communist Party of India (Marxist) legislator, face prosecution for sexual predation. In contrast, there is no complaint to the party or the police or an incriminating first information statement against Mr. Mamkootathil so far, hence, negating the need for his resignation as MLA," he said.

Shining example

Leader of the Opposition V.D. Satheesan told pressmen that the Congress had set a "shining example" in Kerala's political history by suspending "the young and promising leader," despite the lack of a complaint to the party or the police.

Government of Karnataka
ZillaPanchyath, Koppal

No. ZPKPL/C-2/CR/2025-26/2412 Dated : 25-08-2025.

E-Tender Announcement

Subject : Regarding the procurement of human resource services through e-procurement on outsourcing basis at the Zilla Panchayat Koppal Office for the year 2025-26.

An e-tender has been invited for the procurement of Human Resource Services on Outsourcing for the Zilla Panchayat Koppal Office for the year 2025-26 through e-procurement. Tenderers can obtain and upload the details at https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

Detail : (1) Name and address of the authority calling for tenders. : Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Panchayat Koppal. **(2)** Purpose of Tender : To obtain human resource services through an external agency. **(3)** Estimated amount (in lakhs of rupees) : **70.00 lakhs. (4)** EMD Amount (in Rs.) : **140000/- (5)** Starting date for submission of tenders : **25-08-2025 (6)** Last date for submission of tender : **12-09-2025 (7)** Date and time of opening of technical bid : **15-09-2025. (8)** Tender opening Place: Zilla Panchayat Koppal **(9)** Date and time of receipt of financial bid : Will be informed later.

Sd/- Chief Executive officer
Zilla Panchayath Koppal

DIPR/Koppal/290/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

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IFT No. CHIMUL/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/1702 /2025-26 Date: 22.08.2025

**** E-PROCUREMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION ****

The Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Chikkaballapura invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl.No.	Description of Material	Qty.
01	Supply of Trolley Bags to CHIMUL (Price should be quoted inclusive of GST & other charges)	2,250

Access to E-tender Documents : 22.08.2025 to 30.08.2025 5.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 30.08.2025 , 5.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 01.09.2025, 11.00 AM onwards

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.

Sd/-
Managing Director.
Chikkaballapura Milk Union Ltd., Chikkaballapura.

KOLAR DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED.,KOLAR
[P.B No. 63, N.H-75, Huthur Post, Kolar – 563102. Karnataka]
(Ph.No 08152-282 310/350/331,7760964517,
E-Mail- komulpurchase@yahoo.com)

IFT No.KMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 2569 /2025-26 Date: 22.08.2025

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Kolar Milk Union Limited, Kolar invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl.No.	Description of Material	Qty
01	Supply of Fire Wood for Agro based Multi Fuel Boiler for One year Period to Kolar Dairy	6000 MT
02	Supply of CIP Chemicals for One year Period to KOMUL	80,000 Kgs

Access to E-tender Documents : 25.08.2025 to 24.09.2025 05.30 PM
Last date for submission: on or before 24.09.2025, 05.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 26.09.2025, 11.00 AM onwards

IFT No.KMU/ PUR/ E-PROCUREMENT/ 2570 /2025-26 Date: 22.08.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Kolar Milk Union Limited,Kolar invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for
"Transit Insurance for UHT Good Life Milk Packed in Tetra Pack, of KOMUL".

Access to E-tender Documents : 25.08.2025 to 02.09.2025 05.30 PM
Last date for submission : on or before 02.09.2025, 05.30 PM
Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 04.09.2025, 11.00 AM onwards
Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://Kppp.Karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- M.D.KOMUL

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, H&S, 4th Floor, Annex-3 Building, BBMP Head Office Premises, NR Square, Bengaluru - 560 002, e-mail: eehealthbbmp@gmail.com

No: EE/H&S/Quotation/01/2025-26 Date: 25.08.2025

QUOTATION

The BBMP is proposed to procure medical Equipments/components in order to Up-grade existing Hospitals and to construct new Hospitals to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) 2022. In this regard quotations are invited by the undersigned on behalf of Chief Commissioner in KPPP website **https//www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for arriving rates of the medical equipments/ materials mentioned items in the KPP Portal.
Quotation rates for : Medical Equipments/ components in order to Up-grade existing Hospitals and to construct new Hospitals to Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS) 2022.
Interested firms who have experience and expertise in the above field can participate in this quotation by submitting their proposal through online in the website: **https//www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** Firms/ Agency will be selected in accordance with the procedures set out in the KTPP Act under the Govt. of Karnataka.
Last date for submission of quotation on or before **02.09.2025 at 4.00 p.m** through KPP portal. For any clarifications you may contact at the above addressed office between **10.00 AM to 5.30 PM.** The Department reserves the right to accept or reject the quotation from the applicant without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Health and Sanitation, BBMP.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Health and Sanitation, BBMP Head Office, No. 408, Annex-3 Building, 4th Floor, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: BBMP/EE/H&S/TEND/04/2025-26 Date: 25-08-2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) - (SHORT TERM)
(Two Cover System) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, Health and Sanitation, BBMP, Bengaluru invites Proposals (Technical and Financial) for Appointing Contractor for the work detailed below.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Additional Construction of Electric Crematorium, Burial Ground and Other Allied Works in Kumbulgud (Sy.No. 30) in Kengeri Hobli under Yeshwanthpura Constituency. **Estimated Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 676.60, EMD Amount (Rs. in Lakhs): 10.15**

Calendar of Events: 1) RFP Document may be downloaded from the GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 29-08-2025 onwards. 2)** Last Date for Receipt of Queries on **03-09-2025 upto 15.00 Hours. 3)** Date of Pre Bid Meeting on **04-09-2025 at 15.30 Hours at the Office of the Special Commissioner (H&S). 4)** Last Date for Receipt of Tenders is **11-09-2025 before 16.00 Hours. 5)** Date of Opening of Technical Proposals is **12-09-2025 at 16.30 Hours. 6)** Date of Opening of Financial Proposals: **After Approval of Technical Proposals through KPP Portal.** Further details can be had from the above office.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Health & Sanitation, BBMP.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ– 562114
ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ : 27931759, ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 27931221,
Email: itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Web Site.www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ:ನಸಹೊ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಜಿಆರ್/05/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.08.2025

"ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ"(ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್ ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಅಮೃತ್–2.0 ಮತ್ತು ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿ ಅನುದಾನದಡಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ 02ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ರೂ.ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ
01	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT47697	50.00	84,600/–
02	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT47691	35.10	59,500/–
03	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47889	49.82	84,394/–

1) ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **09.09.2025 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5:30 ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ** ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **11.09.2025** ರ ಬೆಳಗ್ಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **16.09.2025** ರ ಬೆಳ್ಳಗೆ **11.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.
2)ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/2468/ಏರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/2025–26

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
 # 49, East Wing, 4th & 5th Floor, Khanija Bhavan Race Course Road Bengaluru – 560 001. Phone No. 080-22265383 website : www.kiadb.in

IADB/ENGG/Services/ETND-EP-01/1498/2025-26 Date: 25.08.2025

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB is inviting tender as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Tableau designers / Firms under two cover system for the following work:

Name of the Work : Providing services for preparation of Tableau including Concept Design, Materials, Display & Road Show etc., for representing Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board in Mysuru Dasara 2025-26.

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **06.09.2025** upto **4.30 pm.**
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2483/Zen/2025-26

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED
Office of the Deputy General Manager-3, 1st Floor, BBMP Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052.

No:DGM-3/BSWML/TEND/09/2025-26 Date: 25.08.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT) (Through GOK KPP Portal only)

1.The waste processing plants established by BBMP are to be operated and maintained to process wet waste with approved technology to generate compost as per SOP
2.In view of this, tenders are invited on behalf of Managing Director, BSWML for the following works. 3. The Tender documents can be downloaded from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Website (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.
The Bidder shall submit the bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal.

Name of the Works	Estimated amount (Rs.in lakhs)	EMD (in Rupees)	Stipulated Period of Completion
Repair of Existing machineries and Vehicles at Seegehalli wet waste processing plant of 120 TPD capacity.	**14.86**	Rs.29,720/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC	**03 Months**
Repair of Existing machineries and Vehicles at Chikkanagmangala wet waste processing plant of 300 TPD capacity.	**36.49**	Rs.72,980/- through e-payment under of the following i.e., online / RTGS / NEFT / OTC	**03 Months**

CALENDER OF EVENTS: 1) Date of Pre bid meeting: **03.09.2025** at **15:00** hours in office of the Chief Engineer & Chief General Manager (Tech), BSWML, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru – 560052. (2) Last date of submission of Bids in KPP Portal: **11.09.2025** before **16:00** hours. (3) The Technical Bid opening date in KPP Portal: **12.09.2025** after **16:30** hours.

Sd/-
Deputy General Manager-3, BSWML, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/2484/CCL/2025-26

Beyond debate

Dysfunction of legislatures is due to concentration of power in the executive

Addressing the two-day All India Speakers' Conference in New Delhi on August 24, Union Home Minister Shah called attention to the frequent disruptions that have paralysed deliberations in Assemblies and Parliament. His point that "debate must take place in a democracy" is beyond any debate. But when one goes beyond the truism, a picture of India's representative democracy in distress emerges. Bitterness between the government and the Opposition has erased the scope for any common ground, and Parliament has been reduced to a theatre of mutual diatribe. His remarks followed soon after the Opposition's protests, demanding a debate on the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, that led to repeated adjournments. Most of the legislative business was carried out with little or no debate. In a session with 21 sittings spread out over 32 days, 15 Bills were passed. According to PRS Legislative Research's analysis, the Lok Sabha functioned for 29% of its scheduled time, and the Rajya Sabha for 34% – the lowest functioning seen during the 18th Lok Sabha. Two-thirds of the planned time was lost to repeated adjournments. In the Lower House, only 8% of starred questions received an oral reply, while it was 5% in the Upper House. On 12 days in the Rajya Sabha and on seven in the Lok Sabha, no questions were answered orally over the 21 days. Question Hour, an instrument of executive accountability, has been rendered ineffective.

The dysfunction of legislatures is linked to concentration of power in the chief executive, the Prime Minister and Chief Ministers. According to the Annual Review of State Laws 2024 by PRS Legislative Research, State Assemblies met for an average of just 20 days in 2024, down from 28 in 2017. Larger States such as Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh recorded only 16 sitting days, while Odisha and Kerala led with 42 and 38 days, respectively. More than half the Bills were passed on the same day, with little debate. Eight Assemblies do not have a Deputy Speaker; the Lok Sabha has not had a Deputy Speaker since June 2019. Parliamentary committees that used to be a platform for more deliberative and less acrimonious debates have also become vulnerable to partisanship. It is propitious that Mr. Shah thinks that there should be more debate in legislatures, but it will be meaningful only when the government translates that view into action by engaging with the Opposition. A starting point can be a consensus election of an Opposition leader as the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha.

Friends and foes

Pakistan is filling the void created by the alienation of India from Bangladesh

In the first such visit in 13 years, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Ishaq Dar travelled to Dhaka over the weekend to meet with members of the Bangladeshi interim government, headed by Muhammad Yunus, and hold talks with his counterpart, Touhid Hossain. Ties had been tense since 2009, when Sheikh Hasina came to power, and under strain over the prosecution of those who colluded with Pakistan during the 1971 liberation war – and the assassination of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and most of her family in 1975. In 2015, Bangladesh demanded the expulsion of a Pakistani diplomat over links to a terror group and recalled its High Commissioner to Islamabad after Pakistan protested the hanging in Bangladesh of those found guilty of collusion in 1971. Although the two nations subsequently restored envoys, they began to repair ties after Ms. Hasina's ouster last August. The process was also nudged by China, which convened a trilateral mechanism with Bangladesh and Pakistani officials in Kunming. In Dhaka, there was agreement to restore visa facilitation for diplomats, have direct flights, grant scholarships for Bangladeshi students and ways to enhance trade from current lows of less than a billion dollars. However, the Yunus government has refused to move on decades-old Bangladeshi demands for reparations from Pakistan. These include a formal apology for the genocide in 1971 perpetrated by Pakistani forces, financial compensations and the repatriation of thousands of "Stranded Pakistanis" or Urdu-speaking Muhajirs who had migrated there after Partition and still held allegiance to West Pakistan. While meeting Mr. Dar, Mr. Yunus also called for strengthening regional cooperation, including a revival of the SAARC process. India has eyed the thaw in Islamabad-Dhaka ties with some suspicion, given reports that Pakistani diplomats supported Jamaat-e-Islaami student activists during the anti-Hasina protests last year. Of greater concern has been military and intelligence contacts.

While there is no question that New Delhi has cause to feel cut out and bruised by the newfound bonhomie between an erstwhile ally and a long-time foe, it is time that South Block adopts a more realistic prism. Pakistan is stepping into the breach caused by the strain in India-Bangladesh ties. Although Mr. Modi met Mr. Yunus in April and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar met Mr. Hossain on the side-lines of other international events, neither has contemplated a visit, nor has Mr. Yunus been invited. With the announcement of elections in Bangladesh, in February, New Delhi must also broaden its political engagement with political parties there, even as it nudges the Yunus government to a more inclusive process. In the absence of a stronger regional South Asian grouping, New Delhi has a difficult task in holding sway over bilateral ties between any of its neighbours, especially Bangladesh and Pakistan.

The dangerous wiring together of a 'conspiracy'

Madan B. Lokur

is a former Judge of the Supreme Court of India and the Supreme Court of Fiji

"O horror, horror, horror! Tongue nor heart cannot conceive nor name thee!"

Yes, a Shakespearean tragedy is now playing out, though in an intangible form. We are witnessing the murder of press freedom, a right recognised by a Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court, in 1950, in the case of Romesh Thappar. Ironically, his relative, Karan Thapar, is one of the most recent victims. Journalist Siddharth Varadarajan is another such victim. They stand accused of a conspiracy, of "provoking unrest, undermining national security, and spreading narratives aligned with hostile interests". That is quite a mouthful.

The accusation against them lies in a First Information Report (FIR) lodged with the Crime Branch in Guwahati, Assam, on May 9, 2025. The FIR is based on allegedly offensive video interviews and articles published by The Wire. It is not necessary to delve into the details of the FIR except to say that the complainant is educated and writes quite well but strains really hard to make out a case of national security being undermined.

In fact, he writes so well that it took the Crime Branch three months to understand the complaint, take cognisance and summon the accused on August 12, 2025. Maybe the police did not quite comprehend what he intended to say and perhaps took the assistance of an SIT and a dictionary, but still came to a wrong conclusion. And, this in a matter concerning national security. What is going on?

The FIR does not make out a case of any offence under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) and deserves to be quashed. It is nothing but an expression of the complainant's opinion. Unfortunately, based on that opinion, the police in Assam have summoned the two journalists for questioning (everybody knows what that means) on charges of undermining national security. The Supreme Court of India has directed that no coercive action be taken against them. For the time being that is good enough, but I would like the readers of this daily to consider the long-term collateral damage.

Back in sheep's clothing

We have been told, and quite rightly so, that the draconian offence of sedition has been removed from the penal law of India. The BNS does not recognise sedition as a penal offence. However, Section 152 of the BNS creates an offence of endangering the sovereignty, the unity and the integrity of India.

That is sedition in sheep's clothing and is obviously a very serious offence. The law provides that it comes into play when someone "excites or attempts to excite, secession or armed rebellion or subversive activities, or encourages feelings of separatist activities or endangers sovereignty or unity and integrity of India; or indulges in or commits any such act..." The sovereignty and integrity of India are expressions used in Article 19 of the Constitution and have a definite meaning relating to the subservience or break-up of the country, nothing less. In the normal course, the expression of views, however radical they may be, cannot be construed as endangering the sovereignty and the integrity of India. Something much more is required, in the nature of secession or armed rebellion or subversive or separatist activity. It is for this reason that the punishment for an offence under Section 152 of the BNS provides also for life imprisonment.

> Press freedom is being murdered and a law much worse than sedition is being weaponised with impunity

Summons, the consequences

So does all this make Section 152 of the BNS unconstitutional? I do not know – a Constitution Bench of the Court will decide this. And, frankly, I do not want to hazard a guess on the outcome. But, in the meanwhile, what are the consequences of the police summons?

First, a freezing effect. We had earlier acknowledged a chilling effect under the sedition law. Now it has gone well beyond that. Try and imagine any journalist or anybody in a panel discussion on television or otherwise having the courage to be critical of anything to do with any policy of the Government of India. Somebody can misinterpret it and bring national security into play, and the police can take cognisance and summon the alleged offender. Freedom of speech can be bulldozed and demolished because one individual out of a billion people, anywhere in the country, believes (without evidence) that national security is in danger, or that the armed forces are demoralised or that dissent is "strategic subversion" undermining the sovereignty and the integrity of India.

Second, consider the financial inconvenience to a journalist or a common citizen. It is expensive when approaching the Court against a frivolous complaint. The litigant has to pay the lawyer's fee, the printing of paper books and sundry expenses. If the litigant is not a resident in Delhi, one has to add travel expenses, boarding and lodging. How many people can afford that? And why should they just because one or two persons in some part of India misinterpret what is written or said? Consider the expense that Mr. Thapar and Mr. Varadarajan will have to undergo in travel to Guwahati and back (unless they are arrested) and their overnight stay. Will the investigating officer be available on the scheduled date? He might fall sick or have a more pressing case to investigate. In other words, he can make their journey futile.

Then, is there a guarantee that the questioning will be over in one day? Maybe the investigating officer may require their presence again, and again. Today, no police officer is accountable, which is why innocents in Mumbai spent 18 years in jail. Accountability jurisprudence is sorely missing in the country.

In my view, a police officer investigating a crime should travel to the city or the town where the accused is ordinarily resident. The officer is acting for and on behalf of the state. Therefore, the state should bear the expenses rather than a citizen who is presumed to be innocent.

Have the police in Assam explored the possibility of questioning these journalists using video conferencing? Why do they have to be physically present, at great expense and inconvenience, when they can answer questions over a video call? There is another advantage in questioning by electronic mode. The questions and the answers can be recorded to enable those concerned to know what was asked. Sometimes the questions are inane. This avoids a common allegation made by the investigating agency that the accused 'did not cooperate'.

A few days ago, the Lieutenant-Governor of Delhi (L-G) passed an order enabling the cross-examination of police officers in a criminal trial through video conferencing. Lawyers in Delhi have objected to this procedure but the L-G has stuck to his guns. If police officers can be cross-examined over a video call in a criminal trial, there is no reason why journalists cannot be questioned the same way in respect of an accusation.

Harass and punish

The attitude of the Assam police is quite obvious – harass the journalists and make the process a punishment for a non-existent offence. That there is a clear intention to go after journalists is obvious from a summons issued recently to Abhisar Sharma for an offence under Section 152 of the BNS. He is accused of endangering the unity and integrity of India by portraying the state as corrupt, communal and illegitimate. Really? While sedition has been deleted from the statute books, it has been replaced by a law that is much worse and is being weaponised with impunity.

Third, does the state have any respect for the Court and its judgments? I am not too sure. The law requires the accused be given a copy of the FIR, as held by the Court in *Youth Bar Association of India* (2016). Both the accused tried unsuccessfully for a week to get a copy of the FIR. This view was followed by the Karnataka High Court in *Sri Tavaragi Rajashekhar Shiva Prasad* (2024). The police have acted in defiance of the mandate of the Supreme Court with impunity. A copy of the FIR is required to be filed with the jurisdictional Magistrate. So, Mr. Thapar and Mr. Varadarajan approached the Magistrate for a copy of the FIR that had been lodged in May 2025 but were informed that it was not there. Is this impunity? Arrogance? Negligence? Even otherwise, common sense dictates that if an accused is asked to answer allegations against him, he should know what the allegations are.

Finally, in theory, the investigation can gradually rope in other persons involved in the video interviews and articles. The galaxy of accused persons will then include the former Chief of the Research and Analysis Wing, senior journalists, and defence analysts. Watch out. Something is happening here, but you do not know what it is.

Finally, there are three questions that need to be asked. Should Section 152 of the BNS remain on the statute book? Regardless of whether it is constitutional or not, should not the mandate of the law be followed by the police? And, should not the state be made accountable in appropriate cases?

India-Japan ties — old partners, new priorities

Harsh V. Pant

is Vice-President – Studies and Foreign Policy at the Observer Research Foundation and Professor of International Relations at King's College London

Pratnashree Basu

is an Associate Fellow–Indo-Pacific at the Observer Research Foundation

> The Prime Minister's Japan visit highlights India's steady strategic intent, with signals to China and the U.S.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Japan and China, that begins from August 29, comes at a time of flux in global geopolitics. While there is a tentative easing of tensions between India and China after years of strain, there is also growing uncertainty about New Delhi's ties with Washington as the Trump administration seems to be doing everything in its power to push India away. Thus, Mr. Modi's engagement in Tokyo carries weight well beyond the bilateral.

Japan's major investment plan

At the heart of the visit lies Japan's announcement of a ¥10 trillion (about $68 billion) investment plan in India to be spread over the next decade. This pledge, among the most ambitious Tokyo has ever made to New Delhi, is designed to boost the infrastructure, manufacturing, clean energy, and technology partnership. It signals Japan's long-term stake in India's growth story at a time when many global investors remain cautious about China. The fact that Japan is also investing in the next-generation E10 series Shinkansen for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad high-speed rail corridor reflects economic collaboration alongside Tokyo's willingness to transfer cutting-edge technology to India.

On the strategic front, the two countries are expected to revise the 2008 Joint Declaration on Security Cooperation, reorienting their security and defence partnership in accordance with contemporary realities. The proposed Economic Security Initiative – it covers semiconductors, critical minerals, pharmaceuticals, and clean energy – anchors Japan more firmly within India's quest for diversified supply chains. Also significant is the upgrade of their digital partnership, which is now expected to cover artificial intelligence and startup ecosystems. These initiatives place India-Japan ties at the forefront of technological and security cooperation in Asia, reinforcing their shared commitment to a free, open, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

The U.S. factor, a case of strategic balancing

The timing of the visit is important. After the Tokyo meeting, Mr. Modi is scheduled to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation summit in Tianjin, China. Bilateral ties, though scarred by the 2020 Galwan clash, are demonstrating tentative signs of stabilisation with the resumption of direct flights, visa relaxations, and trade facilitation efforts. The visit, from Tokyo to Beijing in a single week, reflects a strategic balancing in many ways. First, it underscores India's ability to engage with a trusted strategic partner and a neighbouring competitor without allowing one relationship to dictate the other. Second, it signals that India can compartmentalise. With Tokyo, the focus is on advancing economic security, defence cooperation, and Indo-Pacific stability. With Beijing, the emphasis will likely be on managing tensions, exploring limited confidence-building measures, and keeping communication lines open.

The balancing becomes even more consequential against the backdrop of Mr. Trump's unpredictability, which has cast a shadow on the reliability of the United States as a steady partner. Mr. Trump stands to unravel years of careful effort invested in building the New Delhi-Washington partnership. Successive administrations on both sides, from George W. Bush to Joe Biden, worked to transform a once-fractious relationship into a cornerstone of Indo-Pacific strategy, anchored in defence cooperation, technology sharing, and growing people-to-people ties. So far, Trump 2.0 risks eroding this progress. The Quad (India, Australia, Japan, the U.S.) too, remains essential to India's Indo-Pacific vision, but its trajectory appears rocky as U.S. engagement turns episodic. The grouping was conceived as a platform to pool capacities among like-minded democracies, yet its momentum has always depended on Washington's willingness to commit consistently. Under Mr. Trump's second term, signals of disengagement and a narrower view of alliances risk diluting the Quad's strategic coherence. For India, Japan and Australia, this raises pressing questions about sustaining the initiative's credibility and operational depth.

Beyond economics and defence, there is a broader political signal embedded in the visit. By stepping up its engagement with India, Japan is not just diversifying its economic footprint but is also reinforcing the idea that dedicated long-term cooperation can deliver tangible outcomes.

The message

The Tokyo visit is thus less about short-term diplomatic outcomes and more about signalling steady strategic intent – that India is willing to keep channels with Beijing open, prepared to navigate U.S. unpredictability, and determined to deepen enduring partnerships with like-minded powers in the region. Japan's commitments also reinforce India as one of its most reliable partners in navigating the challenges of the Indo-Pacific, from economic resilience to maritime security.

The visit will highlight one of the most enduring features of Indian diplomacy in recent years: flexibility without losing strategic clarity. In a phase of protracted geopolitical uncertainty, it is Japan that emerges as India's anchor partner. Washington's commitment is wavering under Trump's short-sightedness, while Beijing remains a competitor whose gestures of normalisation cannot yet ease underlying mistrust. Tokyo offers consistency, resources and a shared strategic outlook rooted in democratic values and a free and open Indo-Pacific. Therefore, the visit to Japan is not just about consolidating an old partnership. It is about recognising where India's most dependable ballast lies.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A new Bill

The 130th Constitutional Amendment Bill directly challenges the rule of law and is arbitrary while undermining the basic structure of the Constitution. In a country where judicial processes take years to settle, losing public office in a period of 30 days on mere accusations and placing even the highest office of Prime Minister at the mercy of the executive is aimed at creating a police state.

In an environment where ethical standards have reached their nadir and where it is commonplace to observe candidates getting absolved of various charges as soon as they switch political allegiance to the party in control, investigating agencies become potent weapons to further political agendas. The best approach would be to introduce a Bill which could end the usual template — where a party is obstructed from absorbing such candidates and limiting the abuse of power.

Madhusree Guha,
Kolkata

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address and the full name.

Before legislation becomes litigation

Samrat Pasriccha
Delhi-based lawyer

Rohini Narayanan
Delhi-based lawyer

The framers of the Indian Constitution faced the formidable challenge of defining constitutional democracy. Absolute parliamentary sovereignty, where Parliament is free to do what it wishes, as in the case of the British model, found no credence with the Constituent Assembly. The intent and mandate of the Assembly was clear: Parliament has the power to make laws, but no law can be a derogation from the Constitution.

The power to strike down laws was meant to be sparing – an exception to the right of Parliament to legislate in a democracy. Trouble starts brewing when exceptional power becomes the norm. Our constitutional courts, by practice, have been elevated to the status of a parallel legislator. The reason, though not exhaustive, includes a systematic abdication of the parliamentarian to exercise functions of lawmaking with constitutional precision. In May, the Supreme Court heard challenges to the constitutionality of the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025. What made this particularly egregious? The challenge was made within days of Parliament having enacted the law. And the challengers were MPs themselves.

Over the past decade, the courtroom has become a frequent site of reckoning for Parliament's legislative output. The Union Law Minister said in a written reply in Rajya Sabha in 2022 that 35 cases challenging central legislation and Constitution (Amendment) Acts were pending before the Supreme Court since 2016.

The problem with execution

Legal challenges to legislation generally fall under three categories: constitutional scrutiny, political theatre, and flawed drafting. These challenges are neither partisan nor institutional. The failing seems to lie in the execution: vague definitions, incoherent clauses, cross-references that go nowhere, laws made without harmonising their effect with existing legislation, and provisions that contradict the Constitution. The victims are economic prosperity, social harmony, and democratic love between the legislature and the judiciary.

> The power to strike down laws was meant to be sparing. Trouble starts brewing when exceptional power becomes the norm

On paper, the system is robust. Chapter 9 of the Manual of Parliamentary Procedure outlines clear processes to be followed for the introduction of legislation. A policy proposal must be made by the relevant Ministry, which shall be conducted with proper stakeholder consultation. It then requires approval by the Law Ministry, followed by consideration by the Cabinet. Once the Bill is in Parliament, the legislation is introduced by way of a first reading, followed by a second reading where it may be sent to a Parliamentary Committee for further consideration. In a third reading, it goes through a clause-by-clause consideration by Parliament.

In practice, the system often breaks down. Bills are introduced without adequate notice, committees are bypassed, and clause-by-clause debates are rushed through with minimal scrutiny, resulting in avoidable legislative mistakes. Take Section 18(d) of the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. It prescribes a maximum punishment of two years imprisonment and a fine for sexual abuse of a transgender person. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, similar abuse of a woman can attract up to seven years or life imprisonment. This is a case awaiting a constitutional challenge. This begs the question: were our legislators equipped with the necessary legal guidance to contextualise this law? Are they able to engage with the jurisprudence emerging from the judgments of our constitutional courts? Is the proposed legislation wrapped in dense legal prose capable of being independently examined by legislators?

When law-making becomes incomprehensible, it ceases to be democratic. A functioning constitutional democracy relies on the informed participation of its constituents. When legislation is drafted in legalese and pushed through under time pressure, MPs are left to vote on texts they are unable to fully interrogate. Within Parliament, the impact is serious. Law-making cannot be confined to the lawyers in the House. Legislators are elected to represent the complexity of Indian social life. It seems counter-intuitive that the very same legislators who emerge from all walks of life are expected to expertly engage in high constitutional analyses. The result is that legislators toe the party line and their involvement is reduced to quips, whips, and rote rhetoric.

The case for a retainer-AG

Our Parliament needs a constitutional functionary who can guide the process of law-making; who is empowered and qualified to intervene before legislation becomes litigation. To put it succinctly, we need a constitutional review at the Parliament stage itself. As per Article 88 of the Constitution, the Attorney-General for India (AG) is given the right to participate in the proceedings of the Houses of Parliament. Though rarely invoked, the powers granted therein proffer a transformative solution to the malady of constitutionally flawed and linguistically complex legislation that clog Indian courts.

The benefit of Parliament seeking the counsel of the AG during its deliberations would be two-fold: first, the AG can expertly flag and seek amendment of legal inconsistencies and constitutional infirmities during parliamentary debate; second, lawmakers would have the benefit of relying on the counsel of a non-partisan constitutional functionary while casting their vote.

A well-drafted statute will shield Parliament from having its intent substituted and enable the courts to interpret rather than invalidate.

A promise that is hard to keep

Tariff cuts by the Naidu government may be good politics but bad economics

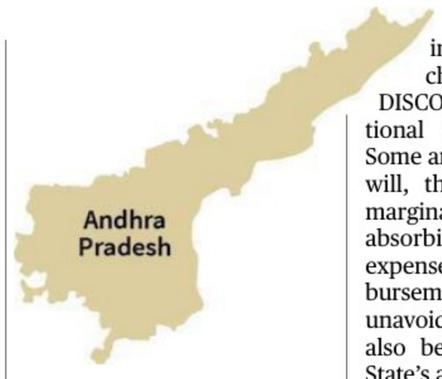
STATE OF PLAY

V. Raghavendra
raghavendra.v@thehindu.co.in

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, who spearheaded reforms in the power sector 25 years ago, has been repeatedly invoking this legacy since his dramatic comeback in the 2024 Assembly elections. Mr. Naidu claims he has asked power utilities not to raise tariffs to avoid burdening consumers. However, the Left parties have disputed this claim, insisting that the tariffs have in fact risen steeply in recent times.

Amid this debate, some industrialists in the State have expressed concern that power is relatively expensive at up to ₹12 a unit. One industrialist said that the Chief Minister had assured them that power tariffs would not be increased and that he would instead try to bring them down by at least ₹0.50 per unit over each one of the next four years.

However, given the current circumstances, this appears doubtable; a promise made only to keep the entrepreneurs in good spirits. Reducing the tariffs may not be possible because even a slight fall in revenue will worsen the financial distress of distribution utilities, or DISCOMs. Already burdened with massive debt, DISCOMs are unable to recover the gap between the cost of supplying subsidised electricity to consumers and the limited reimbursements provided by the government. Utilities in many other States suffer the same plight. The Chief Minister has said that he intends to revive the power sector by increasing efficiencies and not by increasing tariffs.



As per its mandate, the Energy Department is focused on supplying quality and uninterrupted power and has largely succeeded in its mission. However, power supply involves intensive capital expenditure and comes at a cost, which leaves leave little room for tariff cuts.

Mr. Naidu has often accused the previous YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) government of hiking tariffs nine times. He has disowned responsibility for the slight increase in tariffs after the Telugu Desam Party-Jana Sena Party-Bharatiya Janata Party alliance assumed power. Instead, he has attributed the rise to filings made before the Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission during 2019-24.

The YSRCP government's review of long-term solar power purchase agreements, despite stiff opposition from the TDP and warnings by the Ministry of Power, ended with adverse court verdicts. These forced the State to pay nearly ₹9,000 crore in penalties to independent power producers.

Further, the rise in electricity duty from ₹6 paisa to ₹1 per unit early this year has proved to be costly for industries. Industries unsuccessfully challenged this in courts. Energy-intensive industries are especially hit hard by the rise in electricity duty.

Critics of the power sector reforms blame Mr. Naidu for introducing true-up charges, which allow DISCOMs to recover additional costs retrospectively. Some argue that with political will, the government could marginally reduce tariffs by absorbing part of DISCOMs' expenses, but complete reimbursement of revenue losses is unavoidable. Questions have also been raised about the State's agreement to buy power from the Solar Energy Corporation of India, which some allege was signed under dubious circumstances.

It is widely perceived that since power generation and purchase costs will continue to go up incrementally every year, no government will have the luxury of saying no to the DISCOMs' proposal to recover costs from the consumers. In other words, the government will be left with little choice but to approve tariff revisions.

The Andhra Pradesh Electricity Regulatory Commission also cannot afford to overlook the financial implications of a rate reduction for DISCOMs. It has to greenlight their demands for revenue at some point as power supply is not charity.

Irrespective of which category a consumer of electricity falls under, whether industrial, commercial, or domestic, she will be hurt by increasing tariffs. The pain will be particularly hard for industries to bear, as they have other costs and large electricity needs. Nevertheless, no one can live under the illusion that bills will become less expensive; they are only bound to increase commensurate with the rising costs.

If the Naidu government delivers on its election promise, it may be good politics but it is not good economics. There can be no profit for the DISCOMs without cost.

About 30% of MPs and MLAs face serious criminal cases

In the Lok Sabha, the share of MPs facing serious criminal charges has more than doubled since 2009

DATA POINT

The Hindu Data Team

An analysis of MPs and MLAs across India shows that 31% of MPs and 29% of MLAs have declared serious criminal charges against them. As the analysis was conducted immediately after the most recent parliamentary elections, and Assembly elections in each State, it does not reflect some of the current set of MPs and MLAs.

A serious criminal charge includes offences where the maximum punishment is five years or more, or those that are non-bailable.

In the Lok Sabha, the share of MPs facing serious criminal cases has more than doubled, from 14% in 2009 to 31% in 2024 **(Chart 1).** In the Assemblies, the share was 29% in 2024, which accounts for more than 1,200 MLAs.

Telangana had the highest share of MPs with serious criminal cases (71%), followed by Bihar (48%). Uttar Pradesh recorded the highest absolute number at 34, as seen in **Chart 2**.

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) had the highest absolute number of MPs facing serious cases (63 members or 26% of its total). The Congress followed with 32 MPs (32%). Among smaller parties, the proportions were higher: all four MPs of the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) had serious cases against them **(Chart 3)**.

Andhra Pradesh had the highest share of MLAs with serious criminal cases at 56%, followed by Telangana (50%). U.P. recorded the highest absolute number (154 MLAs or 38% of its total) **(Chart 4).**

While 61% of the Telugu Desam Party (TDP)'s MLAs faced serious cases, 62% of the RJD's did. The BJP, which has the largest presence in Assemblies, accounted for 436 MLAs (26%) with serious cases, followed by the Congress (194 MLAs; 30%) **(Chart 5)**.

Cases against lawmakers

Data for the charts were sourced from the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR)

Chart 1: MPs with serious criminal cases over time in %

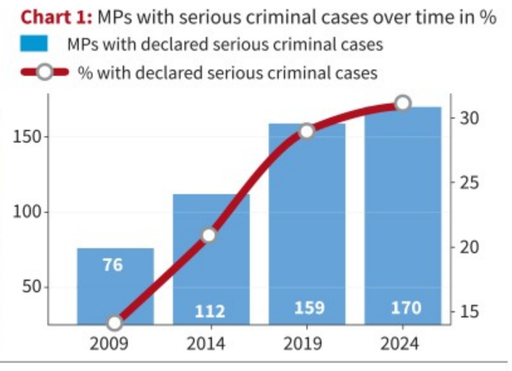


Chart 2: State-wise MPs with serious criminal cases. The farther to the right, the higher the % share of such MPs; the bigger the circle, the higher the number of such MPs

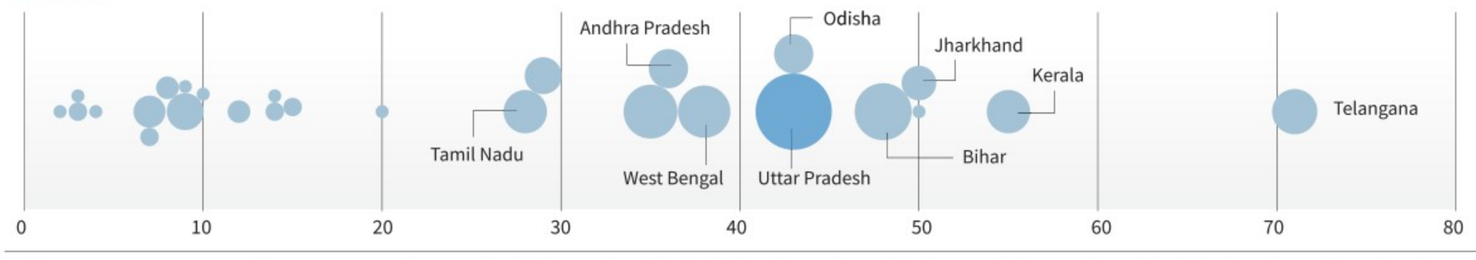


Chart 3: Party-wise MPs with serious criminal cases. The farther to the right, the higher the % share of such MPs; the bigger the circle, the higher the number of such MPs

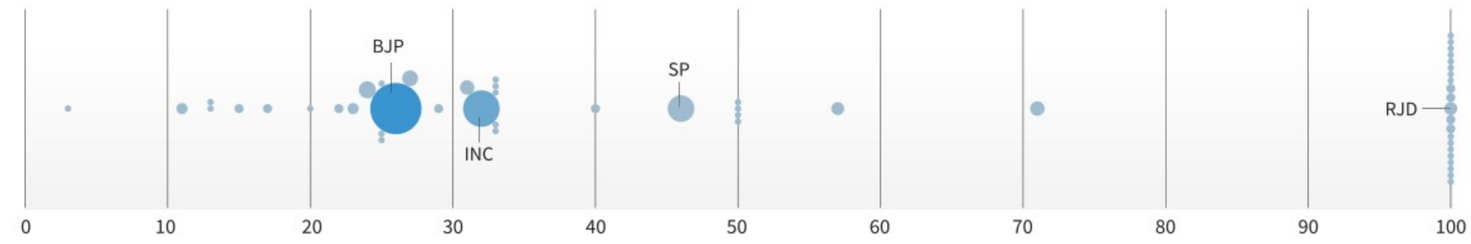


Chart 4: State-wise MLAs with serious criminal cases. The farther to the right, the higher the % share of such MLAs; the bigger the circle, the higher the number of MLAs

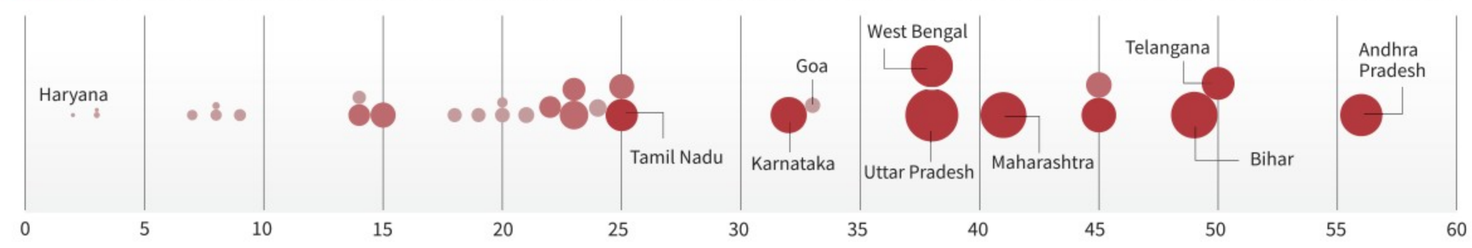
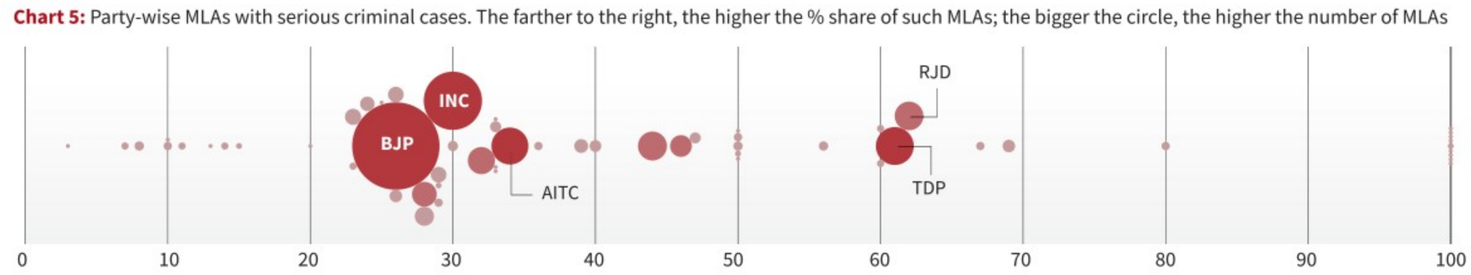


Chart 5: Party-wise MLAs with serious criminal cases. The farther to the right, the higher the % share of such MLAs; the bigger the circle, the higher the number of MLAs



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 26, 1975

Private sector under overall social planning urged

Kanpur, Aug. 25: The Union Labour Minister, Mr. K.V. Raghunatha Reddy yesterday, said the private sector would have to be brought under "overall social planning" to create a truly socialistic order in the country.

Addressing the 11th annual meeting of the Kanpur Productivity Council, he said the private sector laid too much emphasis on profits, which often blurred its functioning.

On the other hand, the public sector, despite its certain weaknesses, was socially and economically far more relevant.

"But for the contribution made in the last few years by the public sector undertakings, the country would have been in an economic mess to-day, as are a large number of countries in the world. It is these units which have helped the country to ward off, nay tackle a serious economic crisis.

Mr. Reddy said the public sector was often accused of inefficiency but during the last one year it had achieved a growth rate of 12.5 per cent.

The biggest drawback in the present industrial set-up was that relevance and efficiency of a particular industrial unit, mainly in the private sector, was judged by the amount of profits earned. This led to a disequilibrium in which certain essential units were not set up at all or some had to be closed down because they were less profitable.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 26, 1925

Round the world on bicycles

Calcutta, Aug. 25: Signor Iginis Gibelli and Herr Antony Kundinger, who are touring the world on bicycles, came to Calcutta and called on Mr. Gandhi on Monday. They tried to get Mr. Gandhi to give a message from India to the world in their autograph book. As Monday is observed by Mr. Gandhi as a day of silence he wrote as follows: "If you will please come some other time when I am speaking, I shall talk to you and then decide whether to give something in your book or not."

Being asked if he did not think it wise to write a message from India to the world, Mr. Gandhi wrote: "I want the whole world to know all about my country. You are most welcome."

From Page One

'Form rules to regulate social media conduct'

Attorney-General R. Venkataramani, appearing for the Centre, responded that the primary objective of the proposed guidelines would be sensitisation of social media users.

"But if somebody violates, they will have to take responsibility... Many of these media blogs are like feeding your own ego," Mr. Venkataramani submitted.

Justice Bagchi pointed out that the top court had divided speech into free speech, commercial speech, and prohibited speech. "What we see here is an overlap of commercial and prohibited speech," the judge remarked.

"Today, we have an unfortunate incident of disabled persons, tomorrow it can be about women, children and senior citizens. Anybody can start making fun... where is all this going to end?" Justice Kant asked.

Senior advocate Aparajita Singh, who represents M/s SMA Cure Foundation, which had moved against the comedians' remarks about persons with disabilities, submitted that "what influencers say matters. It influences an entire generation".

Ms. Singh said they could act as ambassadors to spread awareness and sensitivity on social media. "That will be the best apology they could make," Ms. Singh suggested.

The court directed the comedians to communicate their unconditional apology through their shows. It listed the case in November.

5 journalists among 20 killed in Israeli strikes

Mariam Dagga, 33, was among the journalists killed. AP

A spokesperson for Qatar-based TV network *Al Jazeera* said on Monday that one of its photojournalists and cameramen, Mohammad Salama, was killed in the attack.

"Al Jazeera Media Network condemns, in the strongest possible terms, this horrific crime committed by the Israeli occupation forces, who have directly targeted and assassinated journalists as part of a systematic campaign to silence the truth," the broadcaster said in a statement.

The *Associated Press* said in a statement that it was "shocked and saddened" to learn of the death of Mariam Dagga, 33, a visual journalist who had freelanced for the agency since the beginning of the war.

A spokesperson for *Reuters* said: "We are devastated to learn of the death of Reuters contractor Hussam al-Masri and injuries to another of our contractors, Hatem Khaled, in Israeli strikes on the Nasser hospital in Gaza today."

The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate named two other victims as Moaz Abu Taha and Ahmad Abu Aziz. According to *AFP*, Abu Taha worked with some Palestinian and international outlets.

Don't frame charges against academic: SC to trial court

It asks trial judge not to take cognisance of the chargesheet filed in one of the two FIRs against Ali Khan Mahmudabad; it also quashes criminal proceedings against the academic in the second FIR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday directed a trial judge not to take cognisance of a chargesheet filed in one of two first information reports (FIRs) registered against academic Ali Khan Mahmudabad for his contentious social media posts on Operation Sindoor.

A Bench of Justices Surya Kant and Joymalya Bagchi, in an interim order, directed the trial court not to frame charges against Mr. Mahmudabad on the basis of the chargesheet.

The Bench also ensured that Mr. Mahmudabad's lawyers, senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Siddharth Luthra, received copies of the chargesheet.

The court further quashed criminal proceedings against the academic in the second FIR, based on a police closure report.

In the dock: Ali Khan Mahmudabad being escorted by police personnel after his arrest in Sonipat, Haryana, in May. PTI

Mr. Sibal said his client had been accused under Section 152 (acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita.

The offence is punishable with life imprisonment or a sentence which may extend to seven years.

On May 21, the top court had granted interim bail to Mr. Mahmudabad while refusing to stay the investigation into the two FIRs registered by the Haryana Police.

The court had suspected the academic of indulging in "dog whistling" through his online posts. It had tasked the Special Investigation Team (SIT), comprising three senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officers, to "holistically understand the complexity of the phraseology employed and for the proper appreciation of some of the expressions used in the two online posts".

The Haryana Police had arrested Mr. Mahmudabad on May 18. It was alleged that his social media posts on Operation Sindoor had endangered the sovereignty and integrity of the country. The two FIRs were lodged by Rai police in Sonipat district.

On July 16, the top court had clarified that Mr. Mahmudabad was "entitled" to continue his writings, provided he did not comment on the cases under investigation against him. It had further spared him from appearing before the SIT in connection with the investigation into the two FIRs registered on the social media posts.

Top court stays action against psephologist for deleted post

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Sanjay Kumar

The Supreme Court on Monday stayed the criminal proceedings initiated against Sanjay Kumar, psephologist and co-director of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS), for a social media post concerning an erroneous analysis of the 2024 Maharashtra Assembly election.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai issued notice to the State of Maharashtra on a plea by Mr. Kumar to quash the criminal proceedings. During the hearing, the CJI pointed out that Mr. Kumar had retracted the post.

"He deleted and apologised. This person has impeccable integrity. He is highly respected. It was a mistake," Mr. Kumar's counsel said.

The police had registered two FIRs against the psephologist.

Mr. Kumar had posted about the fluctuations in voter numbers in specific constituencies. However, he had deleted the post upon realising that the analysis was wrong. Noting that the FIRs were a sheer abuse of power by the State, he argued that a social media post giving wrong information cannot form the basis of an FIR for offences such as forgery. He contended that there was no mala fide intent behind the post.

"Such actions violate the fundamental principles of fairness and natural justice and serve to create a chilling effect on the exercise of free speech," Mr. Kumar said.

Collegium recommends elevation of Chief Justices of Bombay, Patna HCs to SC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Alok Aradhe and Justice Vipul Manubhai Pancholi

The Supreme Court Collegium headed by Chief Justice of India B.R. Gavai on Monday recommended the elevation of the Chief Justices of the Bombay and Patna High Courts, Justices Alok Aradhe and Vipul Manubhai Pancholi, respectively, as top court judges.

Justice Aradhe is ranked third in the list of High Court Chief Justices and Justice Pancholi is 19. Justice Aradhe's parent High Court is Madhya Pradesh and that of Justice Pancholi is Gujarat.

Justice Aradhe, born in April 1964, was appointed an Additional Judge of Madhya Pradesh in December 2009 and made a Permanent Judge of the High Court in February 2011.

He was transferred to the Jammu and Kashmir High Court in 2016 and functioned as its Acting Chief Justice for nearly three months from May to August 2018.

Acting Chief Justice

Justice Aradhe was transferred to the Karnataka High Court as judge and took over as its Acting Chief Justice from July to October 2022. He was appointed as the Telangana Chief Justice in July 2023 and later transferred to the Bombay High Court as its Chief Justice on January 21, 2025.

Justice Pancholi was born on May 28, 1968 at Ahmedabad and was confirmed as a Permanent Judge of the Gujarat High Court in June 2016.

He was transferred to Patna High Court in July 2023 and appointed its Chief Justice on July 21, 2025.

Kharge pitches for rise in representation of women in Cong.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Monday sought to increase the representation of women in the party's organisational structure. He also said the post of district presidents in the party was of great importance.

Mr. Kharge made these remarks while addressing a meeting of observers for the appointment of District Congress Committee presidents in Jharkhand, Odisha, Punjab, and Uttarakhand under the *Sangathan Srijan Abhiyan* (organisation rejuvenation campaign). The party is focusing on empowering the district committees to take critical political and organisational decisions independently.

He urged party workers to take forward the campaign of '*vote chori*' (vote theft) launched by the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, to the grassroots level across the country.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Gandhi, party general secretary (organisation) K. C. Venugopal, and senior leaders, including Pradesh Congress Committee chiefs and States in-charge.

"The position of district president holds great importance in the Congress organisation. Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji, Govind Vallabh Pant Ji, (former) Karnataka chief minister Gundu Rao, Minister Dharam Singh, have served in the position of district president. I myself became a district president while serving as a Minister. We must increase the representation of half the population, bring them into the mainstream by giving them responsibilities," Mr. Kharge said.

ED arrests Trinamool Congress MLA Jiban Saha

The Hindu Bureau
KOLKATA

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Monday arrested Trinamool Congress MLA Jiban Krishna Saha for his alleged involvement in the West Bengal school recruitment scam.

The arrest comes following allegations of corruption in the recruitment of assistant teachers in Class 9 and 10 carried out by the West Bengal School Service Commission.

The MLA from Burwan in Murshidabad district had been arrested by the Central Bureau of Investigation in 2023 on similar charges and was out on bail. On Monday, when the ED officials reached his residence, the MLA allegedly tried to escape by jumping from the first floor and scaling the boundary wall of the compound. He was chased and held by the ED.

Modi degree row: Delhi HC quashes CIC's permission to inspect university records

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court on Monday quashed the Central Information Commission's (CIC) 2016 order permitting an Right to Information (RTI) activist to inspect Delhi University's 1978 Bachelor of Arts (BA) records, the year Prime Minister Narendra Modi graduated.

"Something which is of interest to the public" is quite different from "something which is in the public interest," Justice Sachin Dutta remarked as he set aside the CIC's order.

In the 175-page combined judgment, Justice Datta also ruled against the CIC's order directing the CBSE to share Class 10 and 12 records of BJP leader Smriti Irani to an RTI applicant saying that "there is no implicit public interest in respect of the information sought".

The Delhi University told the HC that the CIC order had 'far-reaching consequences'.

On the RTI plea of activist Neeraj, the CIC had ordered Delhi University (DU) to allow inspection of its register containing details of all students who passed the BA examination in 1978 – including their roll numbers, names, fathers' names and marks and to provide certified extracts of the relevant pages. After the DU challenged the CIC's order, the court stayed it on the very first hearing, January 24, 2017.

In its plea, the DU had contended that it cannot reveal details of personal information of all students, who had appeared for BA in 1978, the year Mr. Modi cleared the degree. It had argued that the information of students is held in "fiduciary capacity, the same is exempt from disclosure" under the RTI Act. The university said the CIC order had "far-reaching adverse consequences" for all universities that held degrees of crores of students.

Justice Dutta agreed with the DU's contention, noting that the "court cannot be oblivious to the reality that what may superficially appear to be an innocuous or isolated disclosure could open the floodgates of indiscriminate demands". "The fact that the information sought pertains to a public figure does not extinguish privacy/confidentiality rights over personal data, unconnected with public duties," the court added.

Graduates' details have been public, says Congress

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Monday said it was incomprehensible why the educational degree details of Prime Minister Narendra Modi were being kept a secret when such details of graduates had always been public.

The party's response came after the Delhi High Court quashed a Central Information Commission (CIC) order.

"It is simply incomprehensible why the educational degree details of this particular PM should be kept a complete secret when such details of everyone else have always been and continue to be public," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X.

"This incidentally was the reason why amendments to the RTI Act, 2005, were bulldozed through Parliament six years ago in the face of our determined opposition," he added.

India, Fiji call for open Indo-Pacific region, agree to deepen defence ties

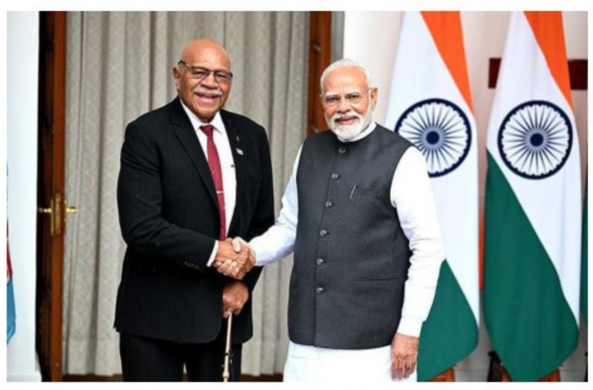
Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

India will provide training and equipment to upgrade Fiji's maritime security, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Monday.

Welcoming visiting Fijian Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka, Mr. Modi said India and Fiji "strongly support a free, open" Indo-Pacific region as both sides declared that India would work to build capacity for the armed forces of Fiji.

"In our cooperation with the Pacific island nations, we see Fiji as a hub. Both our countries strongly support a free, open, inclusive, secure, and prosperous Indo-Pacific. We warmly welcome India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative," Mr. Modi said, announcing the collaboration between India and the Fijian military forces.

A joint statement issued at the end of consultation said the two sides emphasised the importance of their "shared interests in advancing regional peace, stability, and prosperity".



Key meet: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka in New Delhi on Monday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

"Prime Minister Modi reaffirmed India's commitment to advancing the priority areas of cooperation outlined in the Memorandum of Understanding [MoU] on Defence Cooperation signed in 2017, and to supporting Fiji's strategic priorities in these areas," the joint statement said.

The two sides agreed to work together on UN peacekeeping operations, military medicine, the White Shipping Information Exchange, and capacity-building for Fijian military forces.

Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Rabuka emphasised the need to protect Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone, and welcomed India's assurance to assist with Fiji's security needs. "Prime Minister Rabuka welcomed the planned port call by an Indian naval ship to Fiji which will enhance maritime cooperation and interoperability," the statement said.

During the talks at Hyderabad House here, India and Fiji signed seven MoUs that included an agreement on building a super-specialty hospital in Fiji, and one on migration and mobility. Both the leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation against terrorism, and reiterated condemnation for the terror attack in Pahalgam. Mr. Modi announced the gifting of two ambulances to Fiji's military forces, and the opening of the defence wing in the High Commission of India in Fijian capital Suva. The countries also agreed to enhance cooperation in cybersecurity, and welcomed the setting up of a cybersecurity training cell in Fiji. Both sides agreed to collaborate on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

Mr. Rabuka had in July opposed China's reported plans to establish a naval base in the Pacific islands. As a signal to the Chinese side, the statement also called for a "free, open Indo-Pacific region".

Bihar voters challenging deletions will get mandatory hearing, says EC

A senior Election Commission official says that the Electoral Registration Officer will take a call on their inclusion on the final list or exclusion; to those excluded, the officer will issue a 'speaking order', stating the reasons for the decision

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

Bihar voters challenging the deletion of their names from the draft electoral rolls by submitting Aadhaar cards in the absence of any of the 11 indicative list of documents as directed by the Supreme Court will get a mandatory hearing with the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO).

A senior Election Commission (EC) official told *The Hindu* that the ERO would take a call on their inclusion on, or exclusion from, the final list.

The draft rolls published on August 1 have excluded 65 lakh people. The Supreme Court had last week directed political parties to issue specific instructions to their respective booth-level agents to assist voters in their areas, as well as relief camps, in submitting "the requisite forms along with any of the 11 documents mentioned in SIR Notification or Aadhaar Card".

The Supreme Court last week directed parties to issue instructions to their respective BLAs to assist voters. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

As per the special intensive revision (SIR) order issued on June 24, the ERO has the powers of scrutinising all claims, conducting a *suo motu* inquiry, and issuing notice to any elector.

Speaking order

The EC official said that in case a person is excluded from the list, the ERO will issue a "speaking order" stating the reasons for the same. A speaking order is one in which the authority explicitly states the reasons for its decision, linking it to evidence, facts, and applicable laws. This ensures that the decision is not arbitrary and reflects sound reasoning.

On Sunday, BJP leader Amit Malviya asserted that the apex court did not say Aadhaar alone can be a valid document to get voting rights.

"Aadhaar is only proof of identity and residence, and it does not establish citizenship," Mr. Malviya said, adding that nowhere in the judgment did the Supreme Court even suggest that it should be used as a valid document for the Special Intensive Revision".

The Union Home Ministry last week, while responding to a question in Parliament, did not specify the "categories of valid documents" required for people to prove citizenship in India. It said that citizenship is governed by the Citizenship Act, 1955, and its rules.

Without specifying the admissible documents, Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai said that citizenship "can be acquired by birth (Section 3), by descent (Section 4), by registration (Section 5), by naturalisation (Section 6) or by incorporation of territory (Section 7) of the Citizenship Act, 1955. The eligibility criteria for acquisition and determination of citizenship is as per the provisions of the Citizenship Act, 1955 and rules made thereunder."

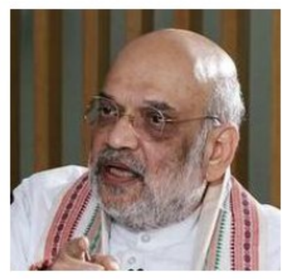
Dhankhar is unwell, Opposition 'making a fuss': Amit Shah

Asian News International
NEW DELHI

Amid speculation over former Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation, Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Monday said Mr. Dhankhar resigned owing to health issues. The Minister dismissed the Opposition's allegation that Mr. Dhankhar was under "house arrest".

In an interview, Mr. Shah said, "Dhankhar *Sahab*'s resignation letter is clear in itself. He has cited health reasons for his resignation."

Asked about the allegation that Mr. Dhankhar was under "house arrest", Mr. Shah said the "interpretation of truth and lies should not rely solely" on Opposition statements. He warned against "making a fuss" over Mr. Dhankhar's resignation. "He resigned due to personal health reasons. One should not deliberate much on the issue," he said.



> I want to ask the entire nation... Can a Chief Minister, Prime Minister, or any leader run the country from jail? Does that suit the dignity of our democracy?
>
> **AMIT SHAH**
> Union Home Minister

Questions raised

The remarks come after Opposition leaders raised questions about the sudden resignation, claiming Mr. Dhankhar had been "silenced" by the government. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party of taking the country back to "medieval times".

Supporting the recently introduced 130th Constitution Amendment Bill, Mr. Shah asked why a government should be run from jail, and whether it suited the dignity of the nation's democracy. The Bill states that the Prime Minister, Chief Ministers, and Ministers, if jailed for more than 30 days for offences that attract a jail term of over five years, can be removed from office.

Mr. Shah lashed out at the Opposition for calling the Bill "unconstitutional" or referring to it as "Black Bill". Recalling former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's arrest in the alleged excise policy scam and a money laundering case linked to the scam, Mr. Shah said: "He got the bail, and I believe he should have given his resignation at that time. He even handed in his resignation when people opposed him. Now, he [if the Bill becomes law] will have to give his resignation lawfully."

"When the case went to the High Court, it was argued that Arvind Kejriwal should resign because he is in jail. The High Court said that we believe that he should resign on moral grounds, but there is no provision in the current law," Mr. Shah said.

'Won't affect govt.'

Mr. Shah said the BJP "completely rejects" the idea that the country "cannot be governed without the person" who has been jailed. "I want to ask the entire nation and the Opposition... Can a Chief Minister, Prime Minister, or any leader run the country from jail? Does that suit the dignity of our democracy," he asked.

"The jail will be made CM House, PM House, and the DGP, Chief Secretary, Cabinet Secretary, or Home Secretary will take orders from the jail. My party and I completely reject the idea that this country cannot be governed without the person who is sitting there. This will not affect anyone's majority in the Parliament or Assembly. One member will go, others of the party will run the government, and when they get bail, they can come and take the oath again. What is the objection in this?" he wondered.

He said the Bill would get a two-thirds majority and even legislators from the Congress would support it.

Kejriwal slams Shah over Bill to remove Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) chief Arvind Kejriwal on Monday attacked Union Home Minister Amit Shah over the Bill that proposes to remove a Minister from office if he or she is arrested and detained for 30 days on serious criminal charges.

"Should a person who includes criminals of serious crimes in his party, gets all their cases dismissed, and makes them Ministers, Deputy Chief Ministers, or Chief Ministers, also be required to resign from his position? How many years of imprisonment should such a person face?" he asked in a post on X.

"If a false case is filed against someone and he is sent to jail and later he is acquitted, then how many years of jail should the Minister who filed a false case against him get," he asked.

Retired judges slam Shah's comments on *Salwa Judum* verdict

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A group of 18 retired judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts have penned a joint statement against Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks on the Supreme Court's *Salwa Judum* judgment, saying that such "prejudicial misinterpretation" will have a "chilling effect on the judges of the Supreme Court, shaking the independence of the judiciary".

The signatories, including the former Supreme Court judges Justices Kurien Joseph, Madan B. Lokur, and J. Chelameswar, said it would be wise to refrain from "name-calling".

Mr. Shah had accused Justice B. Sudershan Reddy (Retd.), Vice-President election candidate and co-author of the 2011 judgment, of "supporting" Naxalism. He had said that if Justice Reddy had not delivered the judgment, left-wing extremism would have ended before 2020.

'Campaign civilly'

"While the campaign for the office of the Vice-President of India may well be ideological, it can be conducted civilly and with dignity. Criticising the so-called ideology of either candidate should be eschewed," the retired judges said.

Out of respect for the office of the Vice-President, it would be wise to refrain from "name-calling", they said.

Amit Shah had accused Justice B. Sudershan Reddy of 'supporting' Naxalism.

'Exposing lies'

Citing the statement of the judges, the Congress criticised Mr. Shah, saying that there were still people in India courageous enough to call him out. In a post on X, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said, "The Union Home Minister that our country has the great misfortune of having a two-in-one WMD – a weapon of malicious defamation as well as a weapon of mischievous distortion. But there are still people in India courageous enough to call him out."

He said retired Supreme Court judges, retired Chief Justices of High Courts, and retired judges of High Courts, had now "exposed his lies" about Justice Sudershan Reddy.

Will never allow harm to small businesses, farmers, says PM as U.S. tariffs loom

Abhinay Deshpande
AHMEDABAD

Two days before the U.S.'s 50% tariffs on Indian goods take effect, Prime Minister Narendra Modi told a gathering in Ahmedabad on Monday that the welfare of small entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, farmers, and cattle-rearers is his government's foremost priority.

"Today, everyone is witnessing the kind of politics driven by economic self-interest... I want to tell my small entrepreneurs, shopkeepers, farmers and cattle rearers... your welfare is the top priority. My government will never allow any harm to come to you," he said, adding that "no matter how much pressure is put on us", India will withstand it.

Mr. Modi hit out at the Congress, saying the party, which governed India for almost 65 years, made the nation dependent on other countries and engaged in "import scams".

Wave of support: Prime Minister Narendra Modi waves to the gathering during his roadshow in Ahmedabad. ANI

"When terrorists targeted India, the then Congress government in New Delhi did nothing. But today, we do not spare the terrorists and their masters. They were wiped out in 22 minutes... The world has seen how we avenged the attack in Pahalgam by entering deep inside and destroying terrorist camps," he said.

He said that around 25 crore Indians have moved out of poverty in the 11 years of the BJP government at the Centre, a change that global economists are observing.

He described Gujarat as the land of Lord Krishna and Mahatma Gandhi. "Today, India is following the path shown by these two," said Mr. Modi, who took part in a roadshow from Naroda Haridarshan Chowk to Nikol Khodaldham Ground before unveiling development projects worth ₹5,477 crore.

BJP says 130th amendment to strengthen morality

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday said the 130th Constitution Amendment Bill, brought under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, would "strengthen morality and good governance in politics" and serve as an "effective weapon to eliminate corruption and criminalisation".

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala said that while the nation was welcoming the initiative, the Congress and the AAP were opposing it "only to protect corruption".

Describing the Opposition as the "boycott brigade", Mr. Poonawala alleged that they were not interested in democracy but only in protecting their families and power. He said the Bill was introduced in Parliament to remove the biggest obstacles to good governance – corruption and crime.

Held 4,719 structured meetings with parties: EC

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) on Monday said that over the past six months, it held nearly 5,000 structured meetings with political parties at all levels. These were envisaged at a conference of Chief Electoral Officers held in March.

A total of 4,719 structured meetings were conducted, comprising 40 meetings by CEOs, 800 by Deputy Electoral Officers, and 3,879 by Electoral Registration Officers, engaging over 28,000 representatives of parties, it said.

KERALA DEVELOPMENT AND INNOVATION STRATEGIC COUNCIL (K-DISC),
India Heights Building, Govt Women's College Road,
Vazhuthacadu, Thycadu P O, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala
Email: ms@kdisc.kerala.gov.in

QUOTATION NOTICE NUMBER : 2457/2024/KDISC

Quotations are invited from manufacturers/suppliers for the supply of 50 kg, NMC 811 cathode material for **LTO - NMC Cells**.
Bid submission end date **08.09.2025, 5.00 P.M.**
For more details: **8714699502, 8547510783,** Website: **www.kdisc.kerala.gov.in**
D3/641/2025/I&PRD — Member Secretary

WEST BENGAL STATE ELECTRICITY TRANSMISSION COMPANY LIMITED
(A Government of West Bengal Enterprise)
WBSETCL
Registered Office: Vidyut Bhavan, Block-DJ, Sector-II, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091
CIN: U40101WB2007SGC113474•Web: www.wbsetcl.in
NIT No.: CE(P)/WBSETCL/ET&SST/25-26/18 — Date: 26.08.2025
E-Tender is invited from eligible bidders having experience in doing similar nature of work for supply of following items-
- 28 nos. 33 kV 874 A Earthing Transformers
- 02 nos. of 100 kVA 11/0.4 kV Station Service Transformer

Bid documents can be downloaded from **26.08.2025, 10:00 A.M.** and bids shall be submitted up to **04:00 P.M., 23.09.2025.**
Visit the following websites - www.wbtenders.gov.in, www.wbsetcl.in for details.
ICA- T18210(3)/2025

சர்தார் வல்லபாய் படேல் சர்வதேச ஜவுளி மற்றும் மேலாண்மை கல்லூரி
सरदार वल्लभभाई पटेल इंटरनेशनल स्कूल ऑफ टेक्सटाइल्स एंड मैनेजमेंट
SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL
International School of Textiles & Management
Applications are invited for the Post of DIRECTOR
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International School of Textiles and Management (SVPISTM), Coimbatore (an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India) invites application for the post of Director from dynamic and qualified candidates. Emoluments: Pay Band of ₹37,400 – ₹67,000 (PB-4) with a Grade Pay of ₹10,000 and a Special Allowance of ₹3,000. Details regarding qualifications, age limit, and other eligibility criteria are available on our websites: **www.svpistm.ac.in | https://texmin.nic.in**
Last date for the receipt of applications is 15.09.2025

email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
e Procurement Notice for Road Works under MMSY-TRIP & MMSY-Impvt. to Existing R.D. Roads,
Bid Identification No. NCB-13 / RWCKJR / 2025-26
No. 3332 / Date : 21.08.2025 /

1. Name of the Work : Construction and Maintenance of roads under MMSY-TRIP & MMSY-Impvt. to Existing R.D. Roads in the District of Keonjhar.
2. No. of Work : 03 (Three) Nos.
3. Estimated Cost : As per Annexure in NIT.
4. Class of Contractor (Eligible) : As per Annexure in NIT.
5. Period of Completion : As per Annexure in NIT.
6. Other details :

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding		Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-13 / RWCKJR / 2025-26	Dt.30.08.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.15.09.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.12.09.25 up to 5.00 P.M.	Dt.16.09.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersorissa.gov.in**

Chief Construction Engineer,
R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
O-639: OIPR-25177/11/0089/2526

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South Division, Amruthnagara, Konankunte Main Road, Soudamini Layout, Bengaluru - 62
No.: BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/07/2025-26 — Date: 25.08.2025
INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Only through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal)
TWO COVER TENDER
The Executive Engineer (Bengaluru South Division), BBMP, Bengaluru-62 invites tenders from eligible Contractors registered in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with KPWD / CPWD / BWSSB / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Government Organizations for the Construction of works detailed in the table below. **(Standard Tender Document - KW4)**

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Improvements of roads and drains at Narayana Nagara 1st Block in Ward No. 203 Subramanyapura of Uttarahalli Sub Division and Narayana Nagara 2nd and 3rd Block in Ward No. 208 Anjanapura of Anjanapura Sub Division. **Approximate value of work (Rs. in Lakhs):** 400.00, **EMD (in Rs.):** 6,00,000.00, **Category/Reserved for:** Others.

Calendar of Events: (1) Tenders must be submitted online through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal on or before **4:00 p.m.** on **10.09.2025** and the opening of tenders will be as per the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal guidelines. **(2)** Date of Technical bid opening of tenders is on **12.09.2025** by **4:30 p.m.** Further details may be obtained from the above office, during office hours or website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**
Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bengaluru South Division, BBMP

International Institute for Population Sciences
[Deemed to be University]
An Autonomous Organization of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India
Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Mumbai – 400088, Contact Details: Tel: 91-22- 42372428
Email: distanceeducation@iipsindia.ac.in; Website: www.iipsindia.ac.in
ADMISSION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR DISTANCE PROGRAMME – for the academic session July-August, 2025
The International Institute for Population Sciences (IIPS), an autonomous organization established in 1956 under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, invites applications for admission to the M.A. in Population Studies programe (Distance Learning Mode) for the Academic Year **July-August 2025- 2026.**
Last date to submit application offline and online: 15th September 2025
For more details, please visit: www.iipsindia.ac.in
DIRECTOR & SR. PROFESSOR (Addl. Charge)

V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority
Civil Engineering Department
Tuticorin-628 004.
SAGARMALA
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

#	Name of the work	Estimated cost Put to tender value (Amount in INR)	Cost of Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) (Amount in INR)	Online Tender opening date
1.	Infrastructure Development for Additional Custom Notified Area including Road connectivity to Green Hydrogen Plant, Stackyard of North Cargo Berth II & III in VOC Port	44,22,41,444/-	69,22,414/	13.09.2025

Note:
For eligible tenderers, downloading of bid documents from the NIC e-tendering website:
i) https://etenders.gov.in/eprocure/app
ii) https://www.vocport.gov.in
Sd/-
CHIEF ENGINEER, VOCPA

INBRIEF

10 killed as truck hits vehicle carrying pilgrims in U.P.

Ten people were killed and 41 injured when a truck rammed a tractor-trolley carrying pilgrims in Bulandshahr district of Uttar Pradesh in the early hours of Monday, the police said. Two of the deceased were minors, while 12 of those injured and hospitalised are below the age of 18. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath condoled the deaths, and directed officials to ensure the best treatment for those injured. He also announced an *ex-gratia* of ₹2 lakh to the kin of those dead and ₹50,000 each for the injured. The accident took place on the Bulandshahr-Aligarh boundary near the Arnia bypass around 2.10 a.m. PTI

NCERT accused of teaching students 'polarising history'

The Indian History Congress has attacked the NCERT's new Partition Horrors Remembrance Day modules, alleging that they spread "falsehoods with a clear communal intent" by depicting the Congress as complicit in Partition while absolving the British. The IHC warned that "tender minds" were being fed "distorted and polarising history". The special modules released by the NCERT to mark Partition Horrors Remembrance Day have held Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Congress and the then Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, responsible for Partition. The IHC said "it is ironical that Hindu communalists are not included in this list". PTI

General Dwivedi holds defence talks in Algeria

The Chief of the Army Staff, General Upendra Dwivedi, held talks with Algeria's senior military leadership, focusing on training exchanges for senior officers, joint capability development, and defence-industrial cooperation. General Dwivedi is on an official visit to Algeria – his first overseas engagement since the successful conclusion of Operation Sindoor. The visit underscores India's intent to deepen defence ties with the Maghreb-Sahel region of Africa. According to sources, with Algeria operating largely on similar military equipment, New Delhi is considered well placed to support its modernisation, training, and maintenance needs.

Farmers fear removing cotton import duty will harm prices

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) said in New Delhi on Monday that the decision to scrap import duty on cotton would further push prices of domestic cotton downwards. Talking to presspersons, SKM leaders said cotton producers in India could not compete with large, industrial-scale cotton farmers of the United States who had historically received massive government subsidies. "It has been estimated that, in the U.S., government subsidies are as high as 12% of the total value of production of cotton, while in India, government support is 2.37%. This massive disparity is at the core of the advantage U.S. cotton farmers have over cotton producers in developing countries," they said.

Stealth frigates *Udaygiri*, *Himgiri* to join Navy today

The vessels are follow-on variants of Shivalik-class frigates; they have advanced weaponry, modern sensor systems designed to execute full spectrum of maritime operations in blue-water conditions

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

The Indian Navy is set to commission the state-of-the-art Project 17A stealth frigates *Udaygiri* and *Himgiri* at the Naval Base in Visakhapatnam on Tuesday.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will preside over the event, which will mark the first-ever simultaneous commissioning of two frontline warships built at different shipyards.

Ready to serve: *INS Udaygiri* during its launch at Mazgaon Docks Limited in Mumbai in May 2022. PTI

Enhanced capability

Mr. Singh said that both vessels were follow-on variants of the Shivalik-class frigates. They featured enhanced stealth capabilities, advanced weaponry, and modern sensor systems designed to execute the full spectrum of maritime operations in blue-water conditions. *Udaygiri*, built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. in Mumbai, and *Himgiri*, constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE) in Kolkata, showcase India's growing shipbuilding expertise and inter-yard collaboration. Notably, *Udaygiri* was the fastest of her class to be delivered after launch, owing to the adoption of modular construction techniques.

Designed in-house by the Navy's Warship Design Bureau (WDB), *Udaygiri* is the 100th vessel to be designed, marking a milestone in five decades of indigenous warship design. Both frigates are fitted with combined diesel or gas (CODOG) propulsion, an integrated platform management system, and advanced Indian-made weapons and sensors. With nearly 75% indigenous content – supported by several MSMEs – the ships embody the vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat, the Ministry added.

Reviving the heritage of earlier warships that bore these names, the new frigates will now join the Eastern Fleet, substantially enhancing the Navy's reach in the Indian Ocean.

Rajnath Singh lauds role of citizens in Operation Sindoor

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

People in border areas provided full support to the armed forces during Operation Sindoor, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said in Jodhpur on Monday.

Mr. Singh inaugurated the Adarsh Defence and Sports Academy in Jodhpur, where he highlighted the vital role of citizens in safeguarding the nation. Recalling the recent Operation Sindoor, he said the unwavering support of people in border areas was proof that national security was the responsibility of every citizen, not just the government or the armed forces.

He praised the youth for their zeal and determination during the operation, in which the Indian armed forces delivered a decisive response to the terror attack in Pahalgam and achieved their objectives with precision. He asserted that while terrorists killed innocent people "based on their *dharma*", India's forces destroyed those who sheltered them "based on their *karma*", describing the operation as symbolic of "New India's resolve".

Noting the significance of combining defence, education and sports, the Minister said the academy would instil discipline, perseverance and determination among youth, qualities equally vital for soldiers and sportspersons. He urged students emerging from this confluence to make India proud on national and global stages.

India sends flood alert to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD

India alerted Pakistan to a potential flood but stressed that the warning was communicated through diplomatic channels rather than the Indus Waters Commission. It is the first known official contact between the two countries since a four-day conflict between them in May. "On August 24, 2025, India communicated flood warnings through diplomatic channels, rather than through the Indus Waters Commission," Foreign Office official said. PTI

Centre allows one-time switch from UPS to NPS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Finance Ministry on Monday introduced a one-time, one-way switch facility from the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) to the National Pension System (NPS).

From April 1, the government has introduced the UPS as an option under the NPS for Central government employees. UPS will provide assured payouts to the employees.

Around 31,555 Central government employees have opted for UPS till July 20, and the last date to enroll is September 30.

In an office memorandum, the Ministry said the facility will be available to employees who have opted for UPS. "This switch facility may be exercised by UPS optees any time not later than one year prior to the date of superannuation or three months prior to the date of retirement in case of voluntary retirement, as applicable," it added.

Air-drop test success a big step in Gaganyaan mission: ISRO scientist

Tiki Rajwi
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The first Integrated Air Drop Test (IADT-01) conducted successfully at Sriharikota on Sunday marks an important step for Gaganyaan, India's keenly watched programme for sending humans to space, A. Rajarajan, senior scientist with the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and Director, Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC), said on Monday.

The ISRO will follow up IADT-01 with the second Test Vehicle Mission (TV-D2) and the uncrewed Gaganyaan-1 (G1) flight – two of the critical trials lined up before the actual mission carrying astronauts – soon, Mr. Rajarajan told *The Hindu*.

He described the upcoming TV-D2 as a "complex mission" that will put to test the crew escape system (CES) under critical conditions. The ISRO had successfully accomplished the Gaganyaan TV-D1 mission in October 2023. Such tests are vital as safety is of paramount importance in manned missions, he said.

For the uncrewed G1 mission, the spacecraft will be launched aboard a human-rated LVM3 rocket. The mission will also have on board Vyommitra, the humanoid robot developed by the ISRO.

'VSSC plays major role'

On the success of IADT-01, Mr. Rajarajan said that as VSSC Director, he was happy that the test went as expected. The VSSC had a major role in IADT-01, being responsible for "90%" of the activities alongside the Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC) and SDSC-SHAR and other agencies, including the Indian Air Force, he said.

IADT-01 successfully demonstrated the parachute-based crew module deceleration system for Gaganyaan. The VSSC had carried out the end-to-end modelling for this test, Mr. Rajarajan said.

Technical, operational issues being resolved: SSC

Press Trust Of India
NEW DELHI

Amid a row over alleged irregularities in the conduct of computer-based recruitment examination for government jobs, Staff Selection Commission (SSC) Chairman S. Gopalakrishnan on Monday said that all "technical and operational issues" were being resolved.

He said the new system implemented by the Commission was aimed to ensure transparency in the recruitment process, and from the upcoming Combined Graduate Level (CGL) examination, such disruptions were expected to be resolved.

The assertion comes amidst ongoing protests in the country by government job aspirants and coaching institutes who claimed to have encountered various issues, including technical and operational glitches and location of exam centres far from the residence of the candidates.

SC forms panel to examine complaints against Vantara

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday constituted a Special Investigation Team (SIT) chaired by a former top court judge, Justice J. Chelameswar, to conduct an "independent factual appraisal" of complaints and allegations of violations raised against Vantara, a zoological rescue and rehabilitation centre conceptualised by Anant Ambani at Gujarat's Jamnagar.

A Bench of Justices Pankaj Mithal and P.B. Varale was hearing two petitions, one filed by advocate Jaya Sukin, alleging unlawful acquisition of animals from India and abroad, mistreatment of the animals, financial irregularities, and money laundering, against Vantara.

However, the court said the petitions were mainly based on media reporting. The court said it would be appropriate to order an independent inquiry to meet the ends of justice.

"We deem it appropriate to direct for constitution of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) of respectable persons of impeccable integrity and high repute having long public service," the court order said.

The members of the SIT include Justice Raghavendra Chauhan, former Chief Justice of Uttarakhand and Telangana High Courts, Hemant Nagrale, IPS (former Mumbai Police Commissioner); and Anish Gupta, IRS, Additional Commissioner, Customs.

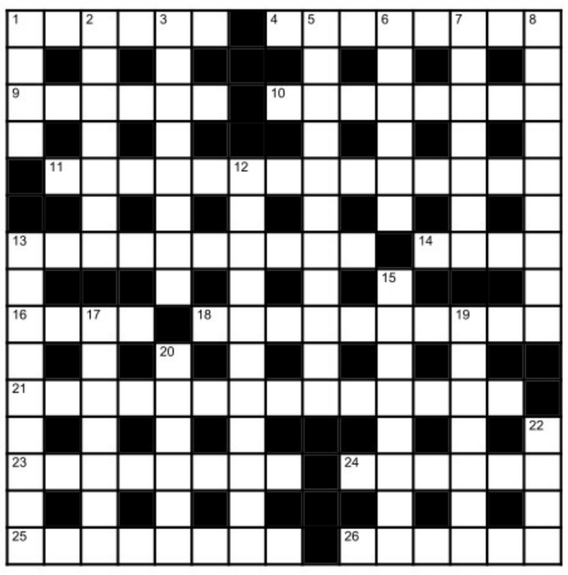
The report must be submitted by September 12. The court listed the case on September 15.

TH CROSSWORD + 14573

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Not able to speak about India virtually for a short time (6)
4 Brilliant compere taking up commercial hosting India's leading scholar (8)
9 Constitutional rule to stop introduction of service tax (6)
10 Capsicum pie in crust of tomato baked with a bit of masala (8)
11 Misrepresentation by school - parents mostly fleeced with ultimate in donations (5,9)
13 Victims of one-night stands? (10)
14 Cheaply constructed gable going around (4)
16 Supply not starting for long (4)
18 Ambulance left a mortuary's entrance and travelled round the bend (10)
21 Lost in the rush, heading for grand, magical heavenly spectacle (8,6)
23 Prevail over our shortened boat crew cycling across Wales (8)
24 In which you will find lead members of the panel against retiring (6)
25 Carefully consider introducing it in court following Avtaar (8)
26 Cool tennis ace after losing a game at the end (6)

Down

1 Disregard letter I have despatched (4)
2 Typical standards of Vikings having left for Norway (7)
3 Boxer's married wearing brown amulet (8)
5 What separates No-conflict zones? (7,4)
6 Cabbie runs into pickpocket (6)
7 Chain armour reportedly lined with tin after mounting (7)
8 Army seizing vessel smuggling gold - it has lights in many parts (9)
12 Power leads in apparatus having tentacles to secure shelter and gear gets IP certificate (6,5)
13 Dreamy schoolmaster missing the new refurbished place where he is to take lessons (9)
15 Say, Kashmiri monkey losing tail before maturity (8)
17 Tormented harassed groups close to paranoia (7)
19 Model fills valise with two pieces of yellow gemstone (4-3)
20 Danger which inhibits engineers (6)
22 Animal fleece picked up (4)

SUDOKU

			5	6		4		
5		9						8
	8				1		2	
	9		8			7	4	
7				3				1
	2	5			7		3	
	6		1				7	
9						3		4
		7		8	5			

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★☆☆

No.SS6623 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

C	A	V	I	A	R		P	R	I	S	O	N	E	R
O		E		B				E		P		E		E
P	U	R	S	U	E		S	P	A	R	R	O	W	S
E		D		D				R		I		N		E
	H	I	G	H	S	P	E	E	D	T	R	A	I	N
		C		A		A		S		E		T		T
G	E	T	S	B	E	T	T	E	R		B	E	E	F
A				I		I		N		H				U
S	C	A	M		I	S	O	T	H	E	R	M	A	L
T		N		U		S		E		A		O		
R	E	C	O	M	M	E	N	D	A	T	I	O	N	
O		H		P		R				R		R		D
P	R	O	H	I	B	I	T		T	A	H	I	N	I
O		R		R		E				S		N		V
D	I	S	P	E	N	S	E		G	H	A	G	R	A

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	5	1	2	4	6	9	7	3
2	3	9	8	1	7	5	4	6
7	6	4	5	3	9	1	2	8
1	4	7	3	9	2	6	8	5
6	9	5	4	8	1	7	3	2
3	8	2	6	7	5	4	1	9
5	1	6	7	2	3	8	9	4
4	7	3	9	6	8	2	5	1
9	2	8	1	5	4	3	6	7

FAITH

Power of divine knowledge

In a world filled with distractions and chaos, finding inner peace and spiritual growth can seem like an insurmountable task. However, the Bhagavad Gita offers a profound solution – divine knowledge, said Swami Mitranandaji.

The Gita states in Chapter IV, verse 38, "There is nothing as purifying as divine knowledge." This knowledge is not just a means to acquire information, but a powerful tool for spiritual transformation.

Through prolonged practice of yoga, one can attain purity of mind, allowing one to receive divine knowledge within one's heart. This knowledge is an antidote to the impurities of the mind, purifying anyone who seeks it with sincerity. The transformative power of divine knowledge is evident from the lives of esteemed individuals like Ratnakar, Arunagiri and Angula Mala, who despite their troubled pasts, attained spiritual enlightenment, through their dedication to Brahma Vidya.

Our land Bharat is revered as the custodian of Brahma Vidya and the spiritual capital of the world. The country's rich spiritual heritage, rooted in ancient traditions, has been a beacon of light for seekers of truth. By embracing and practising these timeless teachings, individuals can unlock their full potential and attain spiritual growth. In today's fast paced world, the relevance of Brahma Vidya cannot be overstated. As a living tradition, it continues to inspire and guide individuals on their spiritual journeys. By exploring the profound teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, and embracing the practice of yoga, one can experience the transformative power of divine knowledge and unlock a deeper understanding of themselves and the world.

INBRIEF

India to tap e-com sites' data in inflation gauge revamp

India will start sourcing price data directly from e-commerce giants including Amazon and Flipkart to overhaul its benchmark inflation gauge, aiming to capture shifting consumption habits and address concerns that current data is outdated, Saurabh Garg, secretary of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation said. India had about 270 million online shoppers in 2024, a figure projected to grow 22% annually, a private study showed. REUTERS

OYO to file DRHP in Nov., eyes $7-8 billion valuation for IPO

Global travel tech firm OYO plans to file its Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP) in November, eyeing a $7-8 billion IPO valuation, sources said. "While we cannot comment on any timelines related to OYO's DRHP or IPO related plans, since it's a decision that will be guided by OYO's Board of Directors and will be solely at their discretion. For now, OYO continues to evaluate a range of strategic options to drive value for stakeholders," said a company spokesperson. PTI

CEAT unveils car tyre with up to 90% sustainable materials

CEAT has announced the launch of SecuraDrive CIRCL, a passenger car tyre with up to 90% sustainable (bio-based) materials. "With this breakthrough, CEAT takes a significant step in its journey of premiumisation through sustainability and technology leadership," it said. The launch follows a series of CEAT's innovations, including CALM technology, ZR-rated tyres, and Run-Flat tyres, reinforcing the company's commitment to delivering cutting-edge mobility solutions, it said.

RBI offers to back tariff-hit sectors

Governor Malhotra pledges support for the growth of the economy, including the sectors that are impacted more; banking regulator chief expects the impact to be minimal if the Centre succeeds in trade negotiations

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Should the tariffs imposed by U.S. President Donald Trump kick in, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), as in the past, would step in and provide financial support to worst impacted sectors to tide over the crisis period, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said here on Monday.

It may be recalled that during the pandemic, the RBI had provided moratorium on term loans and eased access to credit for MSMEs and virtually supported the economy through monetary policy.

"The 50% tariff is yet to kick in. Negotiations are on and we hope there will be minimal impact. As you know 45% [of exported items] are outside the tax net and of the remaining 55% there will be some potential impact on some of the sectors like gem and jewellery, textiles, auto parts, shrimps and MSMEs," the RBI Governor said, while answering a question at the FIBAC annual conference organised by FICCI and Indian Banks' Association (IBA).

Ray of hope: RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra speaks during the FIBAC banking conference in Mumbai. PTI

"The government is looking into it. We, in the part of RBI, have been on an easing cycle. We had cut repo rate by 100 bps to provide ample liquidity to the economy. Whatever support is required from us for the growth of the economy and including those of the sectors which are impacted more, if it so happens, we would not be found wanting in our job," Mr. Malhotra said.

To a question on internationalisation of the rupee, Mr. Malhotra said, "It's an important area on which the RBI has been working for many years and it is important for the country to develop trade in local currency. It cushions us from the volatility of foreign exchange."

Stating that India currently has agreements with four countries including Maldives, Mauritius, Indonesia and UAE, he said, "Healthy trade is happening in local currency. On how it would pan out, he said, "it's a slow process and would take years and decades to evolve to have trade in local currencies."

Mr. Malhotra stressed the need to further strengthen the banking correspondents (BCs) network to achieve financial inclusion goals.

On the use of technology in the banking sector he said it has become the core engine for improving decision making and customer service, moving far beyond its traditional role of driving efficiency. Regulated entities need to accelerate its adoption as they strive to enhance credit and reduce costs, he pointed out.

CBDT working on SOP to handle seized digital data: Official

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) is working on Standard Operating Procedures that would govern the handling of digital data obtained during search and seizure operations and would release these rules soon, according to a senior official in the CBDT.

R.N. Parbat, Member (Legislation) of the CBDT further told *The Hindu* that the new provisions in the Income Tax Act 2025 that allowed tax officials to override passwords were necessary since taxpayers now store their books of account and financial details in digital form.

"Search and seizure take place to detect undisclosed income and undisclosed assets," Mr. Parbat explained in an interview.

SBI chief urges banks to look for borrowers other than India Inc

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Banks need to step up efforts to find other borrowers as corporate India has started to tap capital markets for funds, SBI Chairman C.S. Setty said here on Monday.

"Operational and corporate funding has shown some shift towards capital markets and private credit for their long-term financial requirements. So, banks have to deliberately look to step up and [look for] the next wave of long-term capitalists essential for India's growth ambition," Mr. Setty said, speaking at the FICCI Banking Conference 2025.

C.S. Setty

According to data of over 6,000 listed companies, 46% of corporate funding was secured through banks in fiscal 2024. This was 69% a decade ago.

The share of debentures and other sources like term loans from non-banking sources and other long-term funding sources increased to 54% last fiscal. This was 31% in fiscal 2014.

Among bank credit, 64% was for working capital needs and just 36% tapped banks for term loans as of fiscal 2025.

Mr. Setty underlined that start-up and MSME fundings were new avenues where banks could increase lending.

Fitch retains 'BBB-' for India, flags U.S. tariffs

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Fitch Ratings retained India's BBB- rating with a 'stable' outlook on "robust growth and solid external finances".

However, the ratings agency also said private investment is expected to stay subdued, and Trump tariffs would not only dampen business sentiment, but also hurt India's competitiveness in comparison to other Asian countries.

"India's ratings are supported by its robust growth and solid external finances," Fitch said.

The ratings agency said private investment may stay subdued.

A few constraints

However, it also said that India's fiscal metrics such as high deficits and debt at the general government level, and "lagging" structural metrics, including governance indicators and GDP per capita, constrain the country's rating.

"U.S. tariffs are a moderate downside risk toforecast but are subject to a high degree of uncertainty," Fitch said. "The direct impact on GDP will be modest as exports to the U.S. account for 2% of GDP, but tariff uncertainty will dampen business sentiment and investment."

Align formulation, API GST: Pharmexcil

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Ahead of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council meet early next month in which the two-rate structure proposed is expected to be discussed, pharma exporters' body Pharmexcil has appealed for aligning of GST on active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) and formulations.

Formulations or finished products at present are levied GST at the rate of 12%, while APIs or inputs attract 18%. Under the two-rate structure, if formulations move into the 5% slab and APIs remain at 18%, the gap between input and output tax – known as an inverted duty structure – will widen from 6% to 13%.

Such a scenario is bound to lock working capital, create refund backlogs and add costs to an industry that operates on thin margins, said Pharmaceuticals Export Promotion Council of India vice-chairman Bhavin Mehta.

Parity in rates

"If both are taxed at the same rate, the inverted duty disappears, simplifying compliance and encouraging faster pass-through of benefits to patients. Parity could mean both [taxed] at 5% to maximise affordability or both at 12% to protect revenue while maintaining efficiency. Either is better than a 5/18 split," he said.

For MSMEs, the impact will be sharper as they work on tight cash cycles. Blocked credits from paying 18% on APIs while realising only 5% on sales will strain liquidity.

ChatGPT maker to push AI in India education, hires Coursera's Gupta

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

ChatGPT maker OpenAI announced a Learning Accelerator programme for India, aiming to "bring advanced AI to India's educators and millions of learners via AI research, training and deployment".

"India has the largest population of student ChatGPT users worldwide," said Leah Belsky, VP for education during the announcement.

The firm announced a $5,00,000 grant to IIT Madras, which will work on OpenAI's efforts to evaluate the progress of its attempts to introduce AI "one-on-one tutors" in the classroom.

Leah Belsky

Raghav Gupta

OpenAI hired its second full-time India employee, Raghav Gupta, who, until March led online learning firm Coursera's India operations. Mr. Gupta will lead OpenAI's education projects in India.

One-on-one tutoring

The firm will be assigning five lakh ChatGPT Plus licences to schoolteachers in India by working through the Ministry of Education, it said.

Some licences will also be provided to higher education institutions through the All India Council for Technical Education.

"By working closely with universities, schools, government bodies and educators, we have an opportunity to transform education through AI," Mr. Gupta said.

Ms. Belsky hoped unlike past efforts to use technology in education, generative AI would work for the simple reason students were already using it themselves. In India, she said, over half of ChatGPT users were younger than 24.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,636	0.40
US Dollar	87.56	-0.04
Gold	1,00,170	-0.19
Brent oil	68.85	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2302.90	-22.00
Adani Ports	1340.40	-0.80
Apollo Hosp	7851.00	-71.50
Asian Paints	2492.90	-11.60
Axis Bank	1070.00	-0.90
Bajaj Auto	8750.50	71.00
Bajaj Finserv	1963.80	-2.10
Bajaj Finance	900.80	6.30
Bharat Elec	372.05	-2.80
Bharti Airtel	1930.70	-2.60
Cipla	1601.20	8.40
Coal India	380.00	5.55
Dr Reddys Lab	1283.90	6.30
Eicher Motors	5990.50	66.00
Eternal Ltd.	319.25	0.15
Grasim Ind	2811.40	-2.40
HCL Tech	1504.20	37.90
HDFC Bank	1964.10	-0.50
HDFC Life	787.00	-1.75
Hero MotoCorp	5063.80	65.90
Hindalco	715.85	11.65
Hind Unilever	2631.60	1.70
ICICI Bank	1433.20	-3.20
IndusInd Bank	770.85	10.75
Infosys	1532.10	44.60
ITC	399.35	1.05
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	319.70	-0.90
JSW Steel	1057.80	3.20
Kotak Bank	1983.30	-3.30
L&T	3603.10	7.30
M&M	3398.90	-4.10
Maruti Suzuki	14452.00	103.00
NestleIndia	1153.00	-9.90
NTPC	337.85	0.85
ONGC	236.76	0.47
PowerGrid Corp	284.15	0.80
Reliance Ind	1412.60	3.40
SBI Life	1846.80	-12.20
State Bank	816.45	0.20
Shriram Finance Ltd.	620.85	5.00
Sun Pharma	1656.70	14.90
TataConsumerProduct	1081.60	-2.50
Tata Motors	686.80	6.50
Tata Steel	159.63	1.08
TCS	3140.60	86.60
Tech Mahindra	1527.10	22.10
Titan	3651.40	30.40
Trent Ltd.	5423.00	5.00
UltraTech Cement	12606.00	17.00
Wipro	253.84	5.20

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on August 25

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	87.38	87.70
Euro	102.18	102.56
British Pound	118.08	118.52
Japanese Yen (100)	59.31	59.53
Chinese Yuan	12.21	12.26
Swiss Franc	108.89	109.30
Singapore Dollar	68.09	68.35
Canadian Dollar	63.19	63.44
Malaysian Ringitt	20.76	20.86
Australian Dollar	56.76	56.97

Source:Indian Bank

Karnataka Public Works Department
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, PWD, Bengaluru-560001
No.: EIC/PWD/05/PRAMC/2025-26/917 Date: 25.08.2025
SHORT TERM TENDER
The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD on behalf of Governor of Karnataka, invites Short Term Tender for Fourteen Building works in Chikkaballapur, Tumakuru, Chitradurga, Davangere, Haveri, Bagalkote, Shivamogga, Bidar and Kodagu Districts. Further details can be obtained from Karnataka KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from **26.08.2025, 5:30 PM** onwards.
Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/LC/2479/2025-26

ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಕಚೇರಿ
ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ (kppp) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆಯ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದೇಶ 1999–2000ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ್ 2000 ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ ನಿಯಮಗಳನ್ವಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ Works, Service & Goods ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು/ಸಂಸ್ಥೆಯವರಿಂದ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (kppp) ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಒಂದು ವೇಳೆ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಕಾರಣಗಳಿಂದ ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಯಾವುದಾದರೂ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯಾದಲ್ಲಿ, ಸದರಿ ಬದಲಾವಣೆಯ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ (kppp) ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾತ್ರ ಪ್ರಕಟಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಸಂಪೂರ್ಣ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ / ದಾಖಲೆಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಅಂತರ್ ಜಾಲ ವಿಳಾಸ http://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in ದಲ್ಲಿ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 01/09/2025** ರಿಂದ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗಾಗಿ ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾ ಕಚೇರಿಗೆ ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭೇಟಿ ನೀಡಬಹುದು. ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯನ್ನು ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ) ಹು.ಧಾ.ಮ.ಪಾ ಸರ್. ಸಿದ್ದಪ್ಪ ಕಂಬಳಿ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ ಇವರ ಕಚೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆಸಲಾಗುವುದು. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ	ಕ್ರ. ಸಂ.	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂ.	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಇ.ಎಮ್.ಡಿ ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
GOODS	1	DMA/2025-26/IND5132	80.00	160000.00
	2	DMA/2025-26/IND5133	98.00	196000.00
	3	DMA/2025-26/IND5134	83.06	166120.00
SERVICE	4	DMA/2024-25/SE4094	128.00	192000.00
	5	DMA/2024-25/SE4093	149.00	224000.00
	6	DMA/2025-26/SE5914	5.00	25000.00
WORKS	7	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT46224	425.00	637500.00
	8	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47866	100.00	150000.00
	9	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT47864	100.00	150000.00
	10	DMA/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT48312	95.00	190000.00

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 6&7ರ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 09/09/2025** ರವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 10/09/2025** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 11/09/2025** ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅಥವಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 03–09–2025** ರಂದು **16.30.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 04/09/2025** ರಂದು **11.00.00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ. 1,2,3,4,5,8,9,&10 ಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ 16/09/2025** ರವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 17/09/2025** ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18/09/2025** ರಂದು ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಅಥವಾ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ಅನುಮೋದನೆಯಾದ ನಂತರ ತೆರೆಯಲಾಗುವುದು. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಕುರಿತು ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 05–09–2025** ರಂದು **16.30.00** ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ, ಸಂಭಾವ್ಯ ಬಿಡ್‌ದಾರರ ಪೂರ್ವಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ : 06/09/2025** ರಂದು 11.00.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಇ/ಧಾರವಾಡ/588/ದೇಶಪಾಂಡೆಪಬ್ಲಿಸಿ3/2025–26
ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಯೋಜನೆ)
ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ–ಧಾರವಾಡ ಮಹಾನಗರ ಪಾಲಿಕೆ ಹುಬ್ಬಳ್ಳಿ.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
BALLARI MEDICAL COLLEGE AND RESEARCH CENTRE, BALLARI.
Reg.No:205/1995-96-Recognized by Medical Council of India, New Delhi vide No:MCI-57(3)/79-Med/1912, Dtd.16-04-1979 &Endst. No.MCI-37(1)(Recog.-18)(UG)/2017-Med./109629,Dt: 06/05/2019
DIRECTOR: 8147796529 PRINCIPAL :8147796527
CAO:8147796526PA : 8147796539.
e-mail-ids:directorbmcrcballari@gmail.com, website : https://vims.karnataka.gov.inprincipalbmcrcballari@gmail.com
No:BMCRC/SUP/TEND/CPRT/08/2025-26/Call-2/260
Date: 22.08.2025
Ree-TENDER NOTIFICATION
Tenders is invited from the eligible bidders for Supply & Installation of Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Equipments, Reagents, Consumables, Man Power, Etc, on Cost Per Reportable Test (CPRT) to Central Diagnostic Laboratory at Medical College Hospital (MCH), BMCRC, Ballari under Two bid system through e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** of Government of Karnataka as per the KTPP Act-1999-2000. The interested bidders are request to submit the proposal in prescribed format in above said e-portal on or before 22.09.2025 up to 5.00 PM. The total approximate cost of tender is Rs.203.22 Lakhs. Further details may be obtained in the above said website and **www.bmcrcballari.karnataka.gov.in.**
Sd/- Dean & Director, BMCRC, Ballari
DIPR/Ballari/399/KSMCA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)
No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC&APCC)/EE-Proc/AEE-1/2025-26/ 1967-985 Date: 25.08.2025
BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)
Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry number/ Name of the Work
KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT2577

Combined Package for,
Work-A : Augmentation of **2x12.5MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20 MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11kV Attigere Sub-Station** in Davanagere Taluk & District.
Work-B : Augmentation of **2x8MVA** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Kerebilichi Sub-Station** in Channagiri Taluk & Davangere District.
Work-C : Augmentation of **2x12.5MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers by **2x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformers at **66/11kV Lingadahalli Sub-station,** in Channagiri Taluk & Davangere District.
Work-D : Augmentation of **1x12.5MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer by **1x20MVA,** 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Nyamathi Subs-station,** Nyamathi Taluk, Davanagere District
on **Total Turnkey Basis,** including Supply of all Materials/ Equipments and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.
The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the E-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink "E Procurement KPTCL" or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **29.08.2025 @ 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **29.09.2025 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.
All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.
Sd/- Chief General Manager (Tech),
Corporate Office, KPTCL, 2nd Floor, Kaveri Bhavan,
Bengaluru-560 009. Ph: 080-22243926

PHNOM PENH

Cambodian MPs pass new law allowing revoking of citizenship

AP

Cambodian MPs passed legislation on Monday allowing people who "collude" with foreign countries to be stripped of citizenship, a law rights groups fear will be used to banish dissent. A sitting of 120 lawmakers in the National Assembly including Prime Minister Hun Manet (in picture) unanimously passed the Bill. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump wants U.S. ownership of military base land in S. Korea

AFP

U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday said he wanted Washington to take ownership of the land where U.S. bases are located in South Korea, as he presses the ally to pay more to host some 28,500 American troops. Mr. Trump made the remarks as he met South Korean President Lee Jae Myung at the White House. AFP

AL MUGHAYYIR

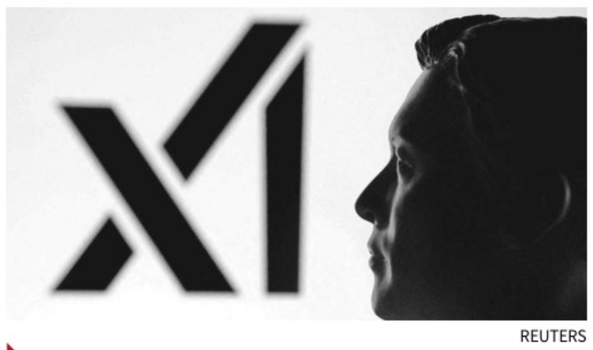
Israeli bulldozers uproot hundreds of olive trees in West Bank village

AP

Israel uprooted hundreds of trees in West Bank's al-Mughayyir on Sunday in the presence of the military. Most of the felled vegetation appeared to be olive trees, essential to the economy and culture of the West Bank, while olive groves have also long been a flashpoint for clashes between farmers and encroaching Israeli settlers. AFP

WASHINGTON

Musk's xAI sues Apple, OpenAI alleging antitrust violations



REUTERS

Elon Musk's companies xAI and X filed a U.S. antitrust lawsuit on Monday against Apple and OpenAI. The complaint accuses Apple and OpenAI of entering an exclusive deal that makes OpenAI's ChatGPT the only generative AI chatbot integrated into Apple's iPhone OS, while blocking rivals such as xAI's Grok. AFP

'Children are dying from starvation in Gaza'

At this point, 60 to 100 trucks per day are entering Gaza, but that's a drop in the ocean; we are talking about 2.1 million people, says Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme; he added that a ceasefire is the only way to turn the disaster around in the enclave

A. M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

The food security situation in Gaza is desperate and difficult, said Carl Skau, Deputy Executive Director of the World Food Programme (WFP), in an interview to *The Hindu* here on Monday. Mr. Skau said there is international pressure on Israel to allow trucks carrying food to enter Gaza and the WFP is in constant touch with the Israeli Government.

Mr. Skau, who visited the region recently, said malnutrition rates among children are spiking, and children and mothers are dying in clinics from starvation. "Right now, the situation is worse than we have ever seen it," he said, adding that the WFP has enough food on the borders to assist the entire population for over two months. "We have the capacity, the systems, the know-how to roll it out," he said, pointing that a ceasefire is the only way to turn the disaster around.

> During the start of the Ukraine war and the pandemic, there were generous contributions to deal with the international ramifications. But right now, the resources available for any international work are coming down. For us at the WFP, it's around 40% less this year than last year
>
> **CARL SKAU**
> Deputy Executive Director
> World Food Programme

"We are in daily engagement with the Israeli authorities. At this point, approximately 60 to 100 trucks per day are entering, but that's a drop in the ocean. We are talking about 2.1 million people. This is not a normal humanitarian situation. To reach 2.1 million people, you need at least 600-700 trucks per day and you need commercial sector to be able to bring in fruit and vegetables to broaden the intake of food to really be able to turn this trajectory of famine around," he said.

The Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, the institute that monitors hunger worldwide, officially declared famine in northern Gaza last week.

Trade war effects

Mr. Skau said the current trade war between the U.S. and its partners is a big concern as it is driving up prices, also for the WFP's supply chain activities. "We have seen a three-fold increase in the number of acutely food insecure over the past five years. This year, we estimate around 320 million acutely food insecure, and at the same time, the funding is coming down. During the start of the Ukraine war and the pandemic, there were generous contributions to deal with the international ramifications. But right now, the resources available for any international work are coming down. For us at the WFP, it's around 40% less this year than last year," he said.

He added that Sudan is the largest hunger crisis that the WFP has seen in decades, since the end of the 1980s in Ethiopia. "About 25 million people who are acutely food insecure, almost 10 million of those in the high category where you're basically not eating every day. And we have 10 pockets of Sudan now where famine has been confirmed. That is dramatic," he said.

Mr. Skau said in the situation in Myanmar is deteriorating and the WFP is estimating that around 10 million people are acutely food insecure.

He was confident that India has the capacities necessary to deal with the issue of low ranking in global hunger index and the problem of nutritional insecurity. "The government has a plan and a vision to do so. I think it is also inspiring as I said to see the trajectory of India having gone from a country where we were assisting basically with food to a country now which has its surplus and we are discussing on how India can help other countries. But there are still gaps and challenges that need to be addressed," Mr. Skau added.

France summons U.S. Ambassador over anti-Semitism claims

Agence France-Presse
PARIS

The U.S. Ambassador to France, Charles Kushner, was on Monday ordered to report to the French Foreign Ministry after he criticised Paris for what he said was its insufficient action against anti-Semitism.

The diplomatic row comes with concerns about an increase in anti-semitic acts and hate crimes in France as international tensions mount over the conflict in Gaza.

In a letter to French President Emmanuel Macron, Mr. Kushner, who is the father of U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law, expressed his "deep concern over the dramatic rise of anti-Semitism in France" and the French government's "lack of sufficient action" to confront it.

Charles Kushner

France on Sunday evening said "the allegations from the Ambassador are unacceptable" and added that Mr. Kushner's letter violated international law.

In July, Mr. Macron said France would formally recognise a Palestinian state during a UN meeting in September.

'Israel will withdraw troops if Lebanon disarms Hezbollah'

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday said Israel was ready to back Lebanon's efforts to disarm Hezbollah and offered "a phased" pullout of its troops if Beirut followed through with plans to seize the group's weapons.

Despite the November ceasefire that ended the war between Israel and Hezbollah, Israel has continued to strike Lebanon.

Israeli forces also continue to occupy five areas of the south that they deem strategic.

"Israel stands ready to support Lebanon in its efforts to disarm Hezbollah and to work together towards a more secure and stable future for both nations," Mr. Netanyahu said.

Benjamin Netanyahu

If the Lebanese government follows through with the plan, Mr. Netanyahu said Israel was prepared to "engage in reciprocal measures, including a phased reduction of IDF (military) presence.

Anti-terrorism court convicts 75 members of Imran Khan's party

Press Trust of India
LAHORE

They were found guilty for their role in an attack on the house of a senior PML-N leader

An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan on Monday handed down jail terms from three to 10 years to 75 leaders and workers of Imran Khan's party for their involvement in an attack on the house of a senior PML-N leader during the May 9 riots.

"The ATC Faisalabad sentenced 59 leaders and workers of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party to 10 years of imprisonment, three years to 16 and acquitted 34 in the attack on Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz Punjab president Rana Sanaullah's house," a court official said. He said the court sentenced a total of 75 people out of the total 109 accused.

Prominent among those convicted are former Opposition leader in the National Assembly Omar Ayub, former Senate Opposition leader Shibli Fraz, Rashid Shafique (nephew of former Interior Minister Sheikh Rasheed).

Earlier, these leaders were also convicted for 10 years each for attacking the ISI building in Faisalabad. The sentences will run concurrently.

Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh mark anniversary of exodus from Myanmar

Associated Press
COX'S BAZAR

Tens of thousands of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar living in dozens of camps in Bangladesh marked the eighth anniversary of their mass exodus, demanding safe return to their previous home in Rakhine State.

The refugees gathered on Monday in an open field at a camp in Kutupalong, in the Cox's Bazar district of Bangladesh, carrying banners and festoons reading "No more refugee life" and "Repatriation the ultimate solution."

The day was marked as "Rohingya Genocide Remembrance Day."

Tight spot: Rohingya refugees participate in the 'Genocide Remembrance Day' rally at a camp in Cox's Bazar on Monday. AFP

While Bangladesh and the UN have long campaigned for the safe return of more than 1 million refugees, the situation inside Myanmar has remained volatile, especially in their previous home in Rakhine State. In Bangladesh, Rohingya refugees face challenges including aid cuts by donors.

Hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims began leaving Myanmar for Bangladesh on August 25, 2017. They travelled by foot and boats during shelling and other violence in Rakhine State, which has been captured by the Arakan Army insurgent group that has battled against Myanmar government soldiers.

The refugees protesting on Monday at Kutupalong, one of the more than 30 camps, expressed frustration over the rise of Arakan Army and the situation contributing to uncertainty over their return. "We are here today because the Myanmar military and the Arakan army committed genocide against our community. We are here today to remember the people who lost their lives and who sacrificed their lives for being Muslim," Nur Aziz, 19, said.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, CV Raman Nagar Division, 8th Cross, 12th A Main Road, HAL 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore - 560 038.

No.EE/CVR/KPPP/11/2025-26 Date:25.08.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Two Cover System)

The Executive Engineer, CV Raman Nagar Division, invites item rate tenders from eligible contractors for the works detailed in the table below.

Asphalting to roads, Improvements to roads and drains, culverts, Constuction of CC Roads and other allied works in different wards of CV Raman Nagar Division.

Sl. No.	Ward No.	Est. Cost (Rs. in lakhs)	EMD (in Rs.)	No. of works
Reserved for Others Category				
1	108-CoxTown	30.00 to 50.00	60,000 to 1,00,000	03
2	109-Benniganahalli	30.00 to 50.00	60,000 to 1,00,000	04
3	110-CV Raman Nagar	30.00 to 40.00	60,000 to 80,000	05
4	111-Kaggadasapura	30.00 to 40.00	60,000 to 80,000	04
5	113-Hoysalanagara	50.00 to 100.00	1,00,000	01
6	114-Jeevanabhimanagara	50.00 Each	1,00,000 Each	03
7	115-Konena Agrahara	20.00 & 50.00	50,000 &1,00,000	02
8	113-Hoysalanagara	100.00	1,00,000 through e-payment & Balance 1,00,000 through FDR	01
9	115-Konena Agrahara	100.00	1,00,000 through e-payment & Balance 1,00,000 through FDR	01
Reserved for SC Category				
10	108-CoxTown	40.00 & 45.00	40,000 & 45,000	02
11	109-Benniganahalli	35.00	35,000	01
12	111-Kaggadasapura	20.00	50,000	01
13	112-New Thippasandra	50.00 &100.00	50,000 & 1,00,000	03
14	113-Hoysalanagara	100.00	1,00,000	01
15	115-Konena Agrahara	100.00	1,00,000	01
Reserved for ST Category				
16	111-Kaggadasapura	30.00 & 40.00	30,000 & 40,000	02
17	112-New Thippasandra	50.00	50,000	01
18	115-Konena Agrahara	30.00	30,000	01
Reserved for CAT-I				
19	108-CoxTown	25.00	25,000	01
20	114-Jeevanabhimanagara	50.00 each	50,000 each	02
Reserved for CAT-II(A)				
21	108-CoxTown	20.00	25,000	01
22	109-Benniganahalli	20.00 & 40.00	20,000 & 40,000	02
23	110-CV Raman Nagar	30.00 & 40.00	30,000 & 40,000	02
24	111-Kaggadasapura	30.00	30,000	01
			Total Works	**46**

1) Tender documents may be downloaded from GOK KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** **2)** Pre-bid meeting : **12.09.2025 at 3.30 p.m. 3)** Last date for uploading the tender documents: **15.09.2025 upto 4.00 p.m. 4)** Opening of Technical bids: **16.09.2025 upto 4.30 p.m. 5)** Opening of Financial bids: **After approval of technical bids.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CV Raman Nagar Division.

Government of Karnataka
(Infrastructure Development and Port and Inland Water Transport Department)
Karnataka Maritime Board
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, PORT DIVISION, BAITKHOL, KARWAR, UTTAR KANNADA-581302
Phone: 08382-229672 Email: eepdk@rediffmail.com/ eepdkwr4@gmail.com
NO.EE/PDK/TND/2025-26/523 Date: 25-08-2025

RE TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd CALL)
(Only in KPPP Portal) (Two Cover System)

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka, Tender is invited in KPPP Portal to execute below mentioned Work. To participate in KPPP Portal, and for more information may be obtained in **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** website. For further Extension refer above mentioned website. No separate paper notification will be issued.

"GST shall be paid to the Tendered Amount separately"

Name of work and Indent Number: (1) MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT THE BASIN & ENTRANCE CHANNEL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING HARBOURS AT AMADALLI IN KARWAR TALUKA OF UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT. **Indent no: IDD/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT 122/CALL-3,** Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 45272076.20**

(2) MAINTENANCE DREDGING AT THE BASIN & ENTRANCE CHANNEL FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF FISHING HARBOURS AT HARWADA AND BELEKERI IN ANKOLA TALUKA OF UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT. **Indent no: IDD/2024-25/OW/WORK_ INDENT123/ CALL-3**, Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 33420781.36**

(3) DREDGING WORK AT FISHERIES HARBOUR TADADI NAVIGATION CHANNEL IN KUMTA TALUKA UTTARA KANNADA DISTRICT. **Indent no: IDD/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT95/CALL-3** Amount put to Tender: **Rs. 21436227.12**

For above 3 works: Last date and Time for queries: **08-09-2025 at 16.00 hours,** Last date and Time for receipt of Tender: **09-09-2025 at 16.30 hours**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Port Division, Karwar

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/415/25-26 Dt.25.08.25

BANGALORE MYSORE INFRASTRUCTURE CORRIDOR AREA PLANNING AUTHRITY
No.5, Second Floor, Looplane, Race Course Road, Bengaluru-560009,
Tel: 080-22341230/35 E-mail: bmicapa@gmail.com
No.BMICAPA/CLU-04/10/2025-26/811 Date: 25-08-2025

PUBLICATION
(UNDER SEC(14(A) OF KTCP ACT, 1961)

Sri B. Siddaraju, Nature Associates Partner has applied to this Authority seeking Change of land use for the Survey No's mentioned below of Kesare Village, Kasaba Hobli, Mysore Taluk, from Agriculture zone to Residential and Commercial purpose, under Sec 14(A) of KTCP Act 1961. Details are as follows;

Sl. No	Sy. No	Extent		Land use As per Master Plan	Change of landuse sought by the Applicant
1	406/7	0 Acre-22 Guntas		Agriculture	Residential
2	406/9	0 Acre-20 Guntas		Agriculture	Residential
3	411/3	Part of 02 Acre-26 Guntas	01Acre-33 ½Guntas	Agriculture	Residential
			01Acre-32 ½Guntas	Agriculture	Commercial
4	411/7	Part of 02 Acre	01Acre-08 ½Guntas	Agriculture	Residential
			0Acre-31 ½Guntas	Agriculture	Commercial

Applicant has stated that the change of land use sought is in the interest of public by quoting the following;

1) By developing the Commercial Projects in the above said lands, the Public will get shops at reasonable price and Job opportunities
2) During the development works of the layout there will be opportunity of employment for labourers.
3) Surrounding areas will be developed by developing the Commercial/Residential Purpose in the above said lands.
4) By planned layout the public are benifitted with the civic amenities such as good Roads, parks etc.
5) By the development of Commercial/ Residential areas Government will get the revenue in the form of various taxes.

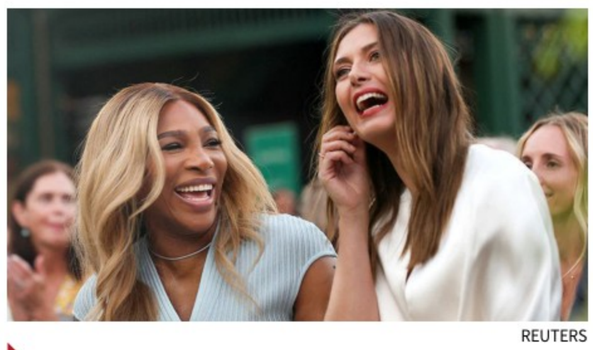
Objection, if any, are invited from the public, any person my file his/her objection to Member Secretary, BMICA PA, Bengaluru in writing to the above address mentioned in this publication within 15 days from the publication of this notice. Any objection received after stipulated time will not be considered

Sd/- Member Secretary
B.M.I.C.A.P.A., Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/AAA/2473/2025-26

THROWING A CHALLENGE

Djokovic dares 'fierce competitor' Serena to return to the tour



REUTERS

Novak Djokovic was all praise for Serena Williams for her surprise appearance at Maria Sharapova's Hall of Fame induction, calling it a "beautiful moment." The Serb, noting that Serena never 'officially' retired after the 2022 US Open and was a great competitor, challenged the 23-time Slam winner to return to the tour next year.

OVER THE MOON

Eala becomes the first Filipino to win a singles match at a Slam

AFP

Alexandra Eala upset Danish 14th seed Clara Tauson on Sunday to become the first player from the Philippines to win a Grand Slam singles match. "I'm super over the moon. I'm so blessed to be the first to do this. I take so much pride in representing my country. It makes what I do bigger than myself" said the 20-year-old Filipino.

PULLING OUT

Dream11 ends association with BCCI, team to get new sponsor

REUTERS

The Indian men's cricket team will don a new jersey sponsor's logo at the Asia Cup after the existing one – fantasy league platform Dream11 – pulled out of the deal. Dream11's decision was expected after the Government passed the Online Gaming Bill 2025, putting an end to real-money gaming system on fantasy sports platforms.

HONOURS EVEN

Praggnanandhaa draws with Duda, Gukesh survives a scare

X/@STLCHESSCLUB

Indian GM R. Praggnanandhaa settled for his fifth consecutive draw, splitting points with Poland's Jan-Krzysztof Duda in the sixth round of the Sinquefield Cup, part of the Grand Chess Tour, in St. Louis. World champion D. Gukesh survived another scare before sharing the point with Alireza Firouzja. Pragg is joint second with 3.5 points.

Sabalenka, Djokovic advance; Medvedev exits after a tirade

The women's top seed shakes off a slow start to make the second round; veteran Serb overcomes physical problems to win in straight sets; Russian eggs the crowd to voice its displeasure following a dispute over an umpiring decision

US OPEN

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK

Aryna Sabalenka launched the defence of her US Open crown with victory on Sunday while Novak Djokovic made a successful start to his latest bid for a record 25th Grand Slam singles title but a raging Daniil Medvedev exited.

World No. 1 Sabalenka, bidding to become the first woman to claim back-to-back US Open titles since Serena Williams completed a hat-trick of wins in 2014, was made to work hard en route a 7-5, 6-1 victory over Switzerland's Rebeka Masarova.

Masarova, ranked 108th in the world, pushed Sabalenka out of her comfort zone with a gutsy performance on the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center's main Arthur Ashe Stadium showcourt.

With men's defending champion Jannik Sinner not opening his campaign until Tuesday, all eyes were on veteran Serbian star Djokovic in Sunday's night session on Ashe.

Flashes of brilliance

The 38-year-old showed flashes of brilliance in a 6-1, 7-6(3), 6-2 win against unseeded 19-year-old American Learner Tien.

Djokovic raced through the first set but was then forced to save a set point in the second after Tien grew in confidence.

A lengthy medical timeout to treat what looked like a blister on his right foot helped revive Djokovic and he pulled away to wrap up victory in two hours and 25 minutes.

The final game of the opening day saw a chaotic victory for France's Benjamin Bonzi over Russian 13th seed Medvedev, the 2021 champion.

Amid extraordinary scenes at the end of the third set, play was held up for more than six minutes as Bonzi waited to serve on match point.

It followed a tirade by Medvedev against chair umpire Greg Allensworth after the official re-awarded Bonzi a first serve when a photographer mistakenly walked onto the court.

With Medvedev egging the crowd on to voice their displeasure, Bonzi lost the set and Medvedev won the fourth to square the match. Bonzi though recovered in the fifth to close out a 6-3, 7-5, 6-7(5), 0-6, 6-4 win in three hours and 45 minutes. "It was crazy," Bonzi said. "The energy was wild. Thanks to all those who were booing, that gave me energy in the fifth."

Fourth seed Taylor Fritz and sixth seed Ben Shelton also eased into the second round.

Expressing disgust: Medvedev vents his anger by smashing the racquet during a chaotic first round loss to Bonzi. REUTERS

Fallen seeds
Men: 13-Medvedev, 22-Humbert
Women: 14-Tauson, 22-Mboko, 24-Kudermetova, 30-Yastremska

IMPORTANT RESULTS

Men: 7-Djokovic (Srb) bt Tien (USA) 6-1, 7-6(3), 6-2; 21-Machac (Cze) bt Nardi (Ita) 6-3, 6-1, 6-1; 4-Fritz (USA) bt Nava (USA) 7-5, 6-2, 6-3; 20-Lehecka (Cze) bt Coric (Cro) 3-6, 6-4, 7-6(5), 6-1; Bonzi (Fra) bt 13-Medvedev 6-3, 7-5, 6-7(5), 0-6, 6-4.
32-Darderi (Ita) bt Hijikata (Aus) 6-2, 6-1, 6-2; Walton (Aus) bt 22-Humbert (Fra) 6-4, 7-6(4), 5-7, 6-1; 30-Nakashima (USA) bt De Jong (Ned) 6-2, 6-7(5), 2-6, 6-2, [10-7].
Women: 1-Sabalenka (Blr) bt Masarova (Sui) 7-5, 6-1;
31-Fernandez (Can) bt Marino (Can) 6-2, 6-1; Eala (Phi) bt 14-Tauson (Den) 6-3, 2-6, 7-6(11); Tjen (Ina) bt 24-Kudermetova 6-4, 4-6, 6-4; 7-Paolini (Ita) bt Aiava (Aus) 6-2, 7-6(4).
16-Bencic (Sui) bt Shuai (Chn) 6-3, 6-3; 10-Navarro (USA) bt Wang (Chn) 7-6(9), 6-3; 25-Ostapenko (Lat) bt Wang (Chn) 6-4, 6-3; 4-Pegula (USA) bt Sherif (Egy) 6-0, 6-4; 19-Mertens (Bel) bt Ahn (USA) 6-1, 6-0; Krejcikova (Cze) bt 22-Mboko (Can) 6-3, 6-2; Pavlyuchenkova bt 30-Yastremska (Ukr) 6-7(5), 7-6(5), 6-4.

Tuesday's Picks

WOMEN	
2-Swiatek	vs Arango
3-Gauff	vs Tomljanovic
8-Anisimova	vs Birrell
13-Alexandrova	vs Sevastova
18-Haddad Maia	vs Kartal
MEN	
1-Sinner	vs Kopriva
3-Zverev	vs Tabilo
8-de Minaur	vs O'Connell
10-Musetti	vs Perricard
14-Paul	vs Moller

Jamil plays down Bagan players' non-availability

FOOTBALL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

Newly appointed Indian football team head coach Khalid Jamil has a tough task at hand. Jamil takes charge with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and FSDL at loggerheads, resulting in the Indian Super League (ISL) being put on hold.

For his first assignment - the 2025 CAFA Nations Cup - Jamil will also have to make do without players from Mohun Bagan, which has refused to release its players for international duty. Slotted in Group 'B', India faces Tajikistan (August 29), Iran (September 1) and Afghanistan (September 4) at Hisar (Tajikistan).

Jamil put on a brave face at a press conference here on Monday, when asked if Bagan players will be missed. "We will adjust with the players we have. We have to accept this as a challenge. I don't feel there is any difficulty; we have good players in the squad," Jamil said.

The press conference was also attended by AIFF President Kalyan Chaubey and AIFF Vice-President N.A. Haris.

Haris explained that the AIFF and clubs must strive to arrive at a "mutual understanding" when it comes to releasing players for India duty.

Sunil Chhetri was not named in the squad for the CAFA Nations Cup, but Jamil stated that the door is open for the star's return.

The trio: Jamil flanked by Haris and Chaubey. K. MURALI KUMAR

"After these matches, Sunil will mostly be available for India duty. I have spoken to him. If he is fit, he is most welcome," Jamil said.

Chaubey, meanwhile, admitted that the ISL's suspension has affected the livelihood of all stakeholders.

"The current situation has had a direct affect on the livelihood of footballers. It is not just players, but there are also thousands of support staff whose profession is related to football. The AIFF is in continuous communication with all stakeholders to ensure that livelihood must not be affected. We will all come together to find a solution," Chaubey said.

After the CAFA Nations Cup, India will play two AFC Asian Cup 2027 qualifying matches against Singapore in the October FIFA window. Haris expressed his disappointment over Bengaluru losing out on hosting these outings.

"The Sree Kanteerava Stadium is used for all sports, including athletics. When a football match is scheduled, we need time to keep the stadium in good condition.

"These matches were suddenly allotted to us. We are very sad that the matches are going somewhere else, but it is not in our control," Haris, the Karnataka State Football Association (KSFA) President, stated.

Haris added that the KSFA will soon "have a very good stadium coming up in Bengaluru."

India squad for 2025 CAFA Nations Cup:
Goalkeepers: Gurpreet Singh Sandhu, Amrinder Singh, Hrithik Tiwari.
Defenders: Rahul Bheke, Naorem Roshan Singh, Anwar Ali, Sandesh Jhingan, Chinglensana Singh, Hmingthanmawia Ralte, Muhammed Uvais.
Midfielders: Nikhil Prabhu, Suresh Singh Wangjam, Danish Farooq Bhat, Thounaojam Jeakson Singh, Boris Singh Thangjam, Ashique Kuruniyan, Udanta Singh Kumam, Naorem Mahesh Singh.
Forwards: Irfan Yadwad, Manvir Singh (Jr), M.S. Jithin, Lallianzuala Chhangte, Vikram Pratap Singh.

Lakshya falls to Shi in the first round

Press Trust of India
PARIS

Lakshya Sen went down fighting to World No. 1 and top seed Shi Yu Qi of China 17-21, 19-21 in the men's singles opening round of the BWF World Championships here on Monday.

The 24-year-old Lakshya, a bronze medallist in the 2021 edition, lost in 54 minutes.

Despite pushing the Chinese to long rallies and producing bursts of attacking brilliance, the Indian faltered during key moments and was unable to breach Shi's rock solid defence and explosive finishing.

Incidentally, Shi has won all nine finals he has contested in since January 2024.

In women's doubles, the Panda sisters – Rutuparna and Swetaparna – lost 12-21, 11-21 to Bulgaria's Stoeva sisters, Gabriela and Stefani, to bow out of the tournament.

Double delight for Neeru; Indian girls sweep junior sports pistol

ASIAN SHOOTING

Sports Bureau

Neeru won the women's trap gold by beating Ray Bassil of Qatar by six points and combined with bronze medalist Aashima Ahlawat and Preeti Rajak to cllinch the team gold for India in the 16th Asian shooting championship in Shymkent, Kazakhstan, on Monday.

Bhowneesh wins

Bhowneesh Mendiratta won the men's trap silver behind Ol Ying of China.

But, what swelled the hearts of the Indian shooting fraternity was the sweep of the junior sports pistol individual medals by Payal Khatri, Naamya Kapoor and Tejaswani.

The trio, however, was beaten to the team gold by Korea.

With the addition of three gold, four silver and three bronze, India took its tally further on top of the medals table with 29 gold, 13 silver and 14 bronze.

Top shots: Naamya, Payal and Tejaswani swelled India's medals tally. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The results: 25m sports pistol:
Women: 1. Zhang Yueyue (Chn) 39 (4) 584, 2. Xiao Jianuixuan (Chn) 39 (3) 588, 3. Thu Vinh Trinh (Vie) 29 (581); 4. Manu Bhaker 25 (588); 6. Esha Singh 18 (588); 17. Simranpreet Kaur Brar 573; RPO: Abhidnya Patil 575; Rahi Sarnobat 570. **Team:** 1. China 1759; 2. Korea 1749; 3. India 1749.
Juniors: 1. Payal Khatri 36 (569), 2. Naamya Kapoor 30 (581), 3. Tejaswani 27 (577); 10. Divanshi 562; 14. Riya Thatte 554; 16. Poshka Gupta 551.
Team: 1. Korea 1714; 2. India 1700; 3. Kazakhstan 1659.
Trap: Men: 1. Ol Ying (Chn) 47 (123), 2. Bhowneesh Mendiratta 45 (118), 3. Chen Pengyu (Chn) 35 (117); 15. Kynan Chenai 115; 41. Lakshay Sheoran 104; RPO: Vivaan Kapoor 118; Fahd Sultan 102.
Team: 1. Kuwait 352, 2. China 343, 3. Qatar 340, 5. India 337.
Women: 1. Neeru 43 (107), 2. Ray Bassil (Qat) 37 (110), 3. Aashima Ahlawat 29 (107); 10. Preeti Rajak 105.
Team: 1. India 319; 2. China 301; 3. Kuwait 295.

Mirabai breaks no sweat, clinches top spot in style

WEIGHTLIFTING

Y.B. Sarangi
AHMEDABAD

Tokyo Olympics silver medallist Mirabai Chanu, competing after a year since her fourth-place finish at Paris 2024, warmed up for next month's World championships with the women's 48kg gold in the Commonwealth weightlifting championships at the Veer Savarkar Sports Complex, Naranpura, here on Monday.

Mirabai lifted 84kg (snatch) and 109kg (clean and jerk) to take the top spot in a field of seven. Though she cut one extra kilo to fit into the new weight category, she qualified for the 2026 Commonwealth Games without pushing herself much. Mirabai's total of 193kg was 32kg more than that of the second-placed Irene Jane Henry of Malaysia.

While winning her first gold in the meet on home soil, Mirabai, who had bagged a silver behind Sanjita Chanu in Pune in 2015, set three new Commonwealth records.

Rishianta Singh aggregated 271kg to beat Malaysia's 55kg Commonwealth Games gold medallist Aniq Kasdan by 18kg for the 60kg gold.

Dharmajyoti Dewgharia (224kg) claimed the men's junior and youth titles in 56kg, while Arumugapandian Maharajan (254kg) won the 60kg junior and youth crowns.

Soumya Dalvi (177kg) and Payal (166kg) emerged the women's 48kg junior and youth women's champions respectively. Preetismita Bhoi (150kg) won the 44kg youth women's gold.

No challenge: Mirabai's total of 193kg was 32kg more than that of the second-placed lifter. VIJAY SONEJI

Mirabai focused on controlling her weight

Y.B. Sarangi
AHMEDABAD

For 31-year-old Mirabai Chanu, it's crucial to balance between cutting an additional kg and not losing muscle mass while preparing for important assignments like the World championships next month, and CWG and Asian Games next year.

Mirabai, was satisfied on her return to 48kg.

"In 48kg, (here) I had to control my weight and see how much I improved. It was a challenge. I really enjoyed the performance. The Worlds is important for me," Mirabai said after winning gold with a total lift of 193kg. "I've to control my diet and weight. I've to focus on small muscle exercises. I can lose my muscles because of my weight. It's a big deal to maintain that," she said, not ruling out that age could be a factor in this.

INBRIEF

Kishore Kumar surfs to a bronze in Indonesia

India's Kishore Kumar bagged the bronze medal in the boys' u-18 category of the Grom Patrol Grand Final junior surfing competition held in Kuta Beach, Bali (Indonesia). Over 150 young surfers from 19 countries participated.

Fleetwood ends drought, wins first PGA Tour title

Tommy Fleetwood ended an agonizingly long wait for a first PGA Tour title on Sunday, out-dueling Patrick Cantlay down the stretch to win the Tour Championship and pocket the $10 million top prize in the FedEX Cup playoffs finale. The seven-time DP World Tour winner whose 30 prior top-fives on the US circuit included six runner-up finishes, fired a two-under par 68 for an 18-under par total of 262 and a three-shot triumph at East Lake in Atlanta.

LIVE TELECAST

Maharaja T20 trophy: Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & FanCode, 3.15 & 7.15 p.m.

US Open: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 8.30 p.m.

Champions League: playoffs, (second-leg), Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 10.15 p.m. & 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday).

Tigers sign off the league phase with thumping win

Shrijith and Abhinav set up Hubli's big total of 195 before the spinners skittle out Lions for 90; Dragons get the better of Mystics, thanks to Shinde's four-for, and finish on top of the table

MAHARAJA TROPHY

C.K. Muralidharan
MYSURU

Hubli Tigers rode on unbeaten knocks by K.L. Shrijith (66, 40b, 2x4, 6x6) and Abhinav Manohar (63, 35b, 5x4, 3x6) and leg-spinner Yashraj Punja's three for 18 to register a thumping 105-run win over Shivamogga Lions in the Maharaja Trophy on Monday.

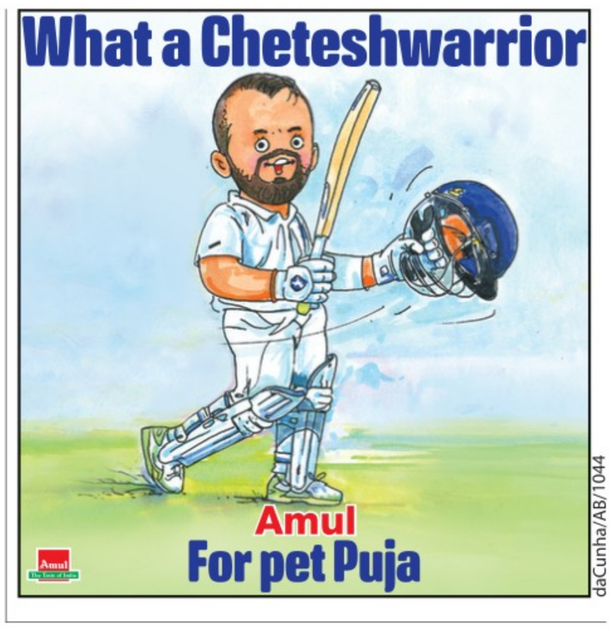
Left-hander Shrijith, who played some exquisite shots, added 124 in 61 balls with Abhinav, who also impressed with his bold stroke-play. Tigers, asked to bat, finished with 195 for three in 20 overs. In reply, Lions were bowled out for 90 in 15.5 overs. Apart from Punja, left-arm spinner Sreesha Achar and off-spinner K.C. Cariappa took two wickets each.

In the final league fixture, Mangalore Dragons rode on left-arm spinner Sachin Shinde's four for 14 to register a 39-run win over Gulbarga Mystics and finish on top of the table.

Power-hitting: Shrijith took a heavy toll of the Lions bowlers. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Tigers took the second spot with 14 points from 10 matches.

The scores:
Hubli Tigers 195/3 in 20 overs (Devdutt Padikkal 33, K.L.Shrijith 66 n.o., Abhinav Manohar 63 n.o., Mari Basava Gowda 2/31) bt Shivamogga Lions 90 in 15.5 overs (Sreesha Achar 2/20, K.C. Cariappa 2/9, Yashraj Punja 3/18); **Toss:** Lions; **PoM:** Shrijith.
Mangalore Dragons 180/6 in 20 overs (Thippa Reddy 45, S.Shivaraj 46 n.o, Pravin Dubey 2/33, Prithviraj Shekhawat 2/21) bt Gulbarga Mystics 141/9 in 20 overs (Sachin Shinde 4/14); **Toss:** Mystics; **PoM:** Sachin Shinde.
On Sunday: Mysore Warriors 180/6 in 20 overs (S.U. Karthik 53, Harshil Dharmani 37 n.o., Gowtham Sagar 30 n.o., Dhruv Prabhakar 2/27, M.B. Darshan 2/36) lost to Shivamogga Lions 181/7 in 20 overs (Aneeshwar Gautam 49, K. Rohit 46, D. Avinash 45 n.o., M. Venkatesh 3/23, Prasidh Krishna 2/26). **Toss:** Warriors. **PoM:** Avinash.



Government seeks to transform Sports Day into a *Jan Andolan*

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

It will be an extended celebration of sports this year, as the National Sports Day will stretch into a three-day *Jan Andolan* (people's movement) across the country.

Many States and Union Territories have issued orders to the concerned departments to initiate the preparations for National Sports Day.

As part of the call by the Union Sports Minister, Mansukh Mandaviya, every citizen will be encouraged to spend at least one hour on sports.

Like the 'Fit India' movement, this move is expected to turn into a revolution to trigger general good health across people of all walks of life and age.

On August 29, eminent athletes and public representatives will engage people in sports activities, as part of the motto *Har gali, Har maidan, Khele saara Hindustan*.

Om pulls off a thriller against Diwakar

SQUASH

Kamesh Srinivasan
NEW DELHI

Om Semwal saved a match-point to pull off a thrilling 8-11, 7-11, 15-13, 11-8, 11-9 victory over Diwakar Singh in the men's pre-quarterfinals of the HCL 81st National squash championship at the Dhyan Chand National Stadium on Monday. In the quarterfinals, Om will meet Veer Chotrani.

While the seeded players had to be sharp straightaway, the qualifiers, some of whom had endured many matches, were not in the best physical shape to counter the guile and experience of the top players.

Aryan Pratap Singh pulled off an impressive 4-11, 11-7, 14-16, 11-7, 11-4 victory over the seeded K.S. Arihant to set up a quarterfinal against defending champion and top seed Abhay Singh.

Second seed Velavan Senthilkumar, Yash Fadte, Suraj Chand and Ramit Tandon were the others to make the last-four stage.

In the women's section, top seed and defending champion Anahat Singh made light of the challenge from Khushboo, and also her leg injury sustained recently in Australia, to set up a quarterfinal against Pooja Arthi, who downed Urwashi Joshi in four games.

At full tilt: Om flies for a flick against Diwakar. KAMESH SRINIVASAN

Tanvi Khanna who had to negotiate two rounds in the qualifying event, continued with her fluent game to set up a quarterfinal against Sanya Vats.

Joshana Chinappa, with a record number of National titles, apart from her impressive international achievements, dropped a game to Tanishka Jain.

Unnati Tripathi, Shameena Riaz and second seed Akanksha Salunke were the others to progress to the round-of-eight.

Akanksha did meet a worthy opponent in Yuvna Gupta, a student of Stanford University, who fought in every game despite losing in three.

The results: Pre-quarterfinals:
Men: Abhay Singh bt Yusha Nafees 11-5, 11-3, 11-7; Aryan Pratap Singh bt K.S. Arihant 4-11, 11-7, 14-16, 11-7, 11-4; Suraj Chand bt Tavneet Singh Mundra 11-5, 11-7, 11-2; Ramit Tandon bt Ansh Tripathi 11-4, 11-4, 11-6; Veer Chotrani bt P.R. Sandhesh 11-5, 11-9, 11-6; Om Semwal bt Diwakar Singh 8-11, 7-11, 15-13, 11-8, 11-9; Yash Fadte bt Rahul Baitha 11-7, 7-11, 11-3, 6-3 (retired); Velavan Senthilkumar bt Shaurya Bawa 11-2, 11-1, 11-6.

Women: Anahat Singh bt Khushboo 11-2, 11-3, 11-4; Pooja Arthi bt Urwashi Joshi 11-9, 2-11, 12-10, 11-3; Tanvi Khanna bt Janet Vidhi 11-3, 11-4, 11-1; Sanya Vats bt Navya Sundararajan 11-4, 11-3, 0-2 (retd.); Unnati Tripathi bt Anjali Semwal 11-5, 11-4, 11-7; Joshana Chinappa bt Tanishka Jain 11-5, 9-11, 11-6, 11-4; Shameena Riaz bt Sunita Patel 11-5, 11-5, 11-7; Akanksha Salunkhe bt Yuvna Gupta 11-9, 11-8, 11-8.

Vinicius and Mbappe star for Real

EURO LEAGUES

Associated Press
MADRID

Real Madrid coach Xabi Alonso started with Vinicius Junior on the bench for the LaLiga game at Oviedo on Sunday but the Brazil star still played a decisive role after coming on in the second half, creating one goal and scoring another in a 3-0 win for Real.

Kylian Mbappe got a brace for the winner. Real is one of only three clubs so far with a 100% record after two games but the top spot was taken by Villarreal, which scored five over Girona.

Making no mistake: Mbappe doubles Real's lead against Oviedo. AFP

The results: LaLiga: Oviedo 0 lost to Real 3 (Mbappe 37, 83, Vinicius 90+3).

Serie A: Juventus 2 (David 59, Vlahovic 84) bt Parma 0.

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THE HINDU GROUP

Shaping Coimbatore's future with integrated townships

Coimbatore Unlimited 3.0 brought together leaders and experts on August 22 for a panel on "Defining Coimbatore's growth trajectory with integrated townships" held in Coimbatore highlighted the city's potential for sustainable infrastructure, lifestyle-driven progress, and strategic investments. The discussions reinforced Coimbatore's readiness to embrace its next phase of growth.

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